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MAMATA MEETS NITISH

'Need to give message that we are together'

NEWS » PAGE 11

INDIA-CHINA TALKS

'LAC resolution key to further relations'

NEWS » PAGE 11

KESAVANANDA BHARATI CASE

SC creates webpage to host case history

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DATA POINT

Karnataka lags in social metrics

State's ranking worsened between 2015-16 and 2019-21

OPINION » PAGE 9

THRILLING WIN

DC holds its nerve to get the better of SRH

SPORT » PAGE 15

Lokayukta raids 34 premises of eight officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police conducted raids against eight government officials on 34 premises linked to them in six districts – Bengaluru, Ballari, Bidar, Chitradurga, Davangere, and Kolar – on Monday.

The raids were still underway till late into the night and is expected to conclude only on Tuesday. Acting on source reports, the Lokayukta police conducted a preliminary inquiry, registered disproportionate assets (DA) cases against these eight officers and raided them simultaneously. One of the largest recovery of cash was made from the residence of Gangadharaiah K.L., Assistant Director, Town Planning, Yelahanka Zone, BBMP.

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India braces to evacuate nationals from Sudan

Operation Kaveri to rescue 3,000 stranded Indians; 500 of them have reached Port Sudan, says Jaishankar; two C-130J heavy-lift aircraft and naval ship on standby for the mission

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Rescue at hand: Indian citizens stranded in Sudan arrive at Port Sudan for their evacuation from the country. PTI

India has started Operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals from conflict-torn Sudan, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Monday. According to information available here, nearly 3,000 Indians are stuck in various parts of Sudan, including the national capital, Khartoum, and distant provinces such as Darfur.

"Operation Kaveri gets under way to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan. More on their way. Our ships and aircraft are set to bring them back home. Committed to assist all our brethren in Sudan," Mr. Jaishankar said in an announcement. India had earlier stationed two C-130J heavy-lift aircraft in Jeddah and sent *INS Sumedha* to Port Said for the operation.

The evacuation acquired urgency in view of the total breakdown of essential services in Sudan. Food and water are in short supply, and there is power outage.

Indians in the region have reached out to the government, showing videos of indiscriminate attacks that also targeted residences of the Indian community and looting of essential items by the rebel paramilitary.

The political crisis in Sudan turned into a country-wide armed conflict on April 15 after a disagreement between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) over the Security Sector Reform (SSR) spiralled into an armed confrontation between the commanders of the two wings. The conflict left hundreds of Indians stranded in the airport in Khartoum. They subsequently took shelter in nearby hotels as fighting intensified.

The fighting also enveloped the Indian Embassy in Khartoum, forcing Indian diplomats to work remotely while they maintained contact with the members of the Indian community stranded in the country.

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After death of two cheetahs, M.P. seeks new site for the felines

Press Trust of India
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has asked the Centre for an "alternative" site for cheetahs currently introduced at the Kuno National Park (KNP), which has seen the death of two felines in less than a month.

A senior State forest official on condition of anonymity said they do not have enough logistical support for the upkeep for the cheetahs, brought in two batches of eight and 12 from Namibia and South Africa, respectively, since September last year.

"We need nine staffers to keep an eye on one cheetah round-the-clock. We don't have enough hands," the official said.

However, S.P. Yadav, Head of Project Cheetah and senior official in the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) told *The Hindu* that "as of today [Monday] we haven't got such a request but if we do, we will look at it".

He also said that mortality among cheetahs was expected and Project Cheetah's planning factored this in. "Even if 50% of the animal population survives, it should be considered a success," he said.

On Sunday, the Kuno Park had its second cheetah fatality in less than a month.

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NEARBY

2,613 candidates left in the fray

BENGALURU
In all, 2,613 candidates are in the fray for the Assembly polls after the last date for withdrawal of nominations on Monday. According to the final list of candidates, 185 women candidates and one from the 'Others' category are contesting. » Page 2

'Shettar issue an internal matter'

HUBBALLI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declined to reveal the reason for denial of ticket to former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and said that it had been conveyed to Mr. Shettar. Mr. Shah termed it an "internal decision" of the party.

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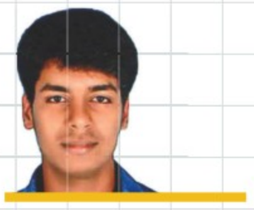
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Wheat procurement increased compared to the year-ago period

12 In percentage. The total procurement so far in 2023-24 is 111 lakh tonnes compared to the 99 lakh tonnes procured during this period last year. The government has set a procurement target of 34.2 million tonne for 2023-24, as against the procurement of 19 million tonne in 2022-23. PTI

Overage vehicles deregistered in Delhi by transport dept.

54 lakh vehicles. The vehicles include autorickshaws, cabs and two wheelers. Some of the deregistered vehicles include those registered as early as 1900 and 1901, according to data. The department kicked off a drive on March 29 to send overage vehicles directly for scrapping. PTI

Donations received by 26 regional parties in 2021-22: ADR

189 in ₹ crore. The report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), focuses on donations declared by regional political parties during the financial year 2021-22, as submitted by them to the Election Commission of India (ECI). PTI

The number of refugees who have fled Sudan to South Sudan

10,000 A large number of people have entered South Sudan from Sudan, fleeing fighting between the army and paramilitary forces. About 6,500 crossed the border on Saturday and another 3,000 on Sunday. REUTERS

Ukraine's grain exports for the 2022-23 season decreases

40.7 In million tonnes. The Agriculture ministry has said that Ukraine had exported 45.7 million tonnes as of April 27, 2022. Ukraine's output is likely to have dropped to about 53 million tonnes in weight in the 2022 calendar year. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Wagner group's actions in Africa

In which countries in Africa is the Wagner group active? What explains its dynamic relations with different countries across the African continent? What has the UN said about the Wagner group? What role does Russia play in the activities of the mercenary group?

EXPLAINER

Anu Maria Joseph

The story so far:

After fighting erupted in Sudan's capital Khartoum on April 15, questions have been raised over the involvement of the Wagner group, which has been active in African countries for years.

What is the Wagner group?

The Wagner group is a Russian paramilitary organisation headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin. Though it has been reportedly engaged in counter-militancy operations in Africa, its involvement is believed to have a more extensive scope covering political, economic and military fields. There have also been reports of the group supplying arms and weapons, and training regional forces in fighting jihadist threats. Despite its involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war, the Wagner group's presence in Africa has continued. By siding with the domestic actors in a civil war situation, the group's actions have impacted the democratic process in Africa.

Additionally, the West has been raising concerns over human rights violations and abuse of civilians related to the Wagner group's presence in Africa.

How active is the Wagner group in Africa?

The Wagner group has been active in Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic, Mozambique and Libya in Africa. The activities are related to providing direct support to authoritarian governments, supporting rival leadership engaged in internal wars, filling the void created by the withdrawal of the French military engagement, taking part in resource exploitation etc.

The Wagner group presents itself as a security provider to a few governments, mostly authoritarian ones in Africa. It has also been supporting rival leaders engaged in a civil war. In Sudan, it began deployments during former President Omar al-Bashir's rule in 2017. The group's ties with Sudan aimed at guarding mineral resources, notably gold mines, and therefore, supported Bashir's government against international opposition. It also played a direct role in suppressing the Sudanese uprising in 2019 that toppled Bashir's regime. In Sudan, Russia has recently forged a strong relationship with the Rapid Support Forces (RSP) and its commander, General Mohamed Hamadan Dagalo. The latter is a rival leader fighting against the Sudanese army. However, there are, as of now, only speculations on Wagner's involvement in the ongoing violence in Sudan. Besides, Russia is set to sign an agreement with Sudan to build a military base in Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

Interestingly, in the Central African Republic, the Wagner Group is active beyond being engaged in security-related activities. According to a German news source *DW,* which refers to a report of eleven European media on the group, Wagner makes profits importing timber, "the government in Bangui granted a subsidiary unrestricted logging rights across 1,87,000 hectares." The same source refers to a contract which gave access to Wagner subsidiaries to the Ndassima gold mine after withdrawing concessions from a Canadian mining company.

The Wagner group is also filling in the void created by anti-French sentiments which led to the withdrawal of the French forces from Africa. In Mali, the Wagner group trains local forces and provides security services in fighting extremist groups. Wagner's deployment in Mali was followed by a nose-dive in France-Mali relations and the end of France's Operation Barkhane.

A similar role of the Wagner group could be found in Burkina Faso. The country is reportedly involved with the Wagner group to deal with surging jihadist violence. After officially announcing the end of the French operation in November 2022, Burkina Faso turned towards Moscow taking similar steps as Mali did.

In Libya, approximately 1,200 Wagner mercenaries are believed to have fought for rebel leader Khalifa Haftar. Libya witnessed a civil war for the entirety of the 2010s before a ceasefire which is holding tenuously.

What is the group's endgame in Africa?

The primary goal of the group is to gain access to natural resources. Numerous reports from *CNN* in the U.S. to *Al Jazeera* in West Asia have referred to Russia's objectives in securing access to Africa's rich natural resources. The Wagner group's presence and moves make up one of the strategiesis to achieve this objective for the country.

Secondly, Russia sees the Wagner group as an instrument of diplomacy in Africa. The Russian strategy in Africa comes with minimal cost economically but with heavy political returns. Moscow secured 15 abstentions from African countries in the UN's resolution condemning its aggression in Ukraine. Moreover, Eritrea and Mali sided with Russia voting against the resolution.

And finally, Russia's access to African mineral deposits is believed to be providing crucial financial support to continue the war in Ukraine. For Russia, strong ties with African countries mean a pipeline of influence for Russia's war in Ukraine.

What are the implications for Africa?

For African countries, increasing dependency on Wagner mercenaries implies more violence, intimidation and uncertainties. A UN report in June 2021 said that private military groups, "particularly the Wagner Group," have violently harassed people and committed sexual violence. France, the U.S. and international human rights organisations accuse the mercenaries of extrajudicial killings in the Central African Republic and Mali.

Secondly, the group posits a threat to democratic governance in Africa. The collapse of relations between the West and Sahel countries, especially Mali and Burkina Faso, paved the way for Russia to position itself as an alternative. In time, Russian gained leverage in Africa through its assistance without conditionalities. However, deepening relations between African leaders and Russian mercenaries pose a significant threat to democratic values. Increasing trends among African governments seeking Russian mercenary assistance for mounting security concerns indicate increasing authoritarian footprints across the continent.

What is the status of the Wagner group globally and inside Russia?

According to the UN's International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, the states should bear the responsibility for the activities of the mercenaries who violate principles of international law which threaten sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of states and self-determination of people. Legally, Wagner is not a Russia-based private military company though it works closely with the Russian security apparatus. Private mercenary groups are illegal in Russia. However, in 2018, Putin recognised the group saying that the Wagner group has the right to pursue its interests anywhere in the world as long as they do not break the Russian law. His statement read: "I repeat they are not breaking Russian law and have the right to work and promote their business interests wherever they like in the world." Most recently, after the group was reported engaging with the Russian Army fighting in Bakhmut, a statement from the Russian parliament said: "All those who defend our country – soldiers, volunteers, mobilised men, and members of PMC Wagner – are heroes."

The author is a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore.

In the open: An advertising screen, which promotes the Wagner group, is seen on a building in Moscow, Russia on March 27. The slogan on the screen reads: "Join the team of victors!". REUTERS

Mercenaries in Africa

The Wagner group, a Russian paramilitary organisation, has been involved in multiple counter-military operations in Africa. While legally, the group is not a Russia-based private military company, it works closely with the Russian security apparatus

Military and political engagement
Economic and political
1 2014, Ukraine: Lieutenant colonel Dmitry Utkin and his mercenary squad take part in the annexation of Crimea. The group is named after Utkin's call sign, Wagner
2015: Yevgeny Prigozhin (right) – close ally of President Vladimir Putin – becomes Wagner's patron
Jan 2023: Paris agrees to pull its troops out of Burkina Faso following demand from Russian-backed anti-French junta
2 2015-18, Syria: Wagner supports Russian military. 100 Wagner members killed in U.S. air strike
3 2016-20, Libya: 1,000 Wagner fighters estimated to have fought alongside General Khalifa Haftar
4 2017-2019, Sudan: Group fights on side of dictator Omar Bashir
5 2017, CAR: Wagner involved in training troops and control of diamond mines
6 2019, Mozambique: Group fights jihadists in north. Leaves after seven Wagner deaths
7 2021, Mali: Wagner Group deployed to provide security against Islamic militants. Move precedes French military withdrawal in 2022. EU accuses Wagner Group of extrajudicial killings in Mali
RUSSIA
UKRAINE
FRANCE
SYRIA
LIBYA
MALI
BURKINA FASO
SUDAN
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KENYA
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SOURCES: BROOKINGS, THE GREY ZONE | PICTURES: FREE RUSSIA FORUM, GETTY IMAGES © GRAPHIC NEWS

THE GIST

- The Wagner group is a Russian paramilitary organisation headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin. Though it has been reportedly engaged in counter-militancy operations in Africa, its involvement is believed to have a more extensive scope covering political, economic and military fields.
- The Wagner group has been active in Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic, Mozambique and Libya in Africa. It presents itself as a security provider to a few governments, mostly authoritarian ones in Africa.
- A UN report in June 2021 said that private military groups, "particularly the Wagner Group," have violently harassed people and committed sexual violence.
- **Russia's access to African mineral deposits is believed to be providing crucial financial support to continue the war in Ukraine**

Karnataka elections: 2,613 candidates left in the fray

185 women candidates and one from the 'Others' category are contesting; of the 3,130 candidates whose nomination papers were found valid, 517 withdrew from the contest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In all, 2,613 candidates are in the fray for the May 10 Karnataka Assembly polls after the last date for withdrawal of nominations on Monday. According to the final list of candidates shared by the Election Commission, 185 women candidates and one from the 'Others' category are contesting.

Of 3,130 candidates, who filed valid nomination papers by the April 21 deadline, a total of 517 withdrew from the contest by Monday.

While 224 candidates are from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Opposition Congress has fielded 223, and the Janata Dal (Secular) has fielded 207 candidates.

A total of 918 Independents and 685 from registered unrecognised political parties (RUPP) are in the fray, according to the final list. As many as 209 candidates are from the Aam Aadmi Party, 133 from the BSP, eight from the JDU, four from the CPI(M), and two from the NPP.

A file photo of Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Manjula Limbavali arriving to file her nomination papers for the Mahadevapura constituency in Bengaluru.

In the 2018 and 2013 Assembly elections, there were 2,655 and 2,948 candidates in the fray, respectively. The number of women candidates has reduced from 219 in 2018 to 185 this time. In 2013, 170 women candidates were in the fray.

The number of male candidates has also reduced from 2,436 in the 2018 Assembly elections to 2,427 this time. The number of withdrawals has also reduced from 583 in 2018 to 517 this time.

Karnataka Votes 2023

Highest in Ballari

While Ballari City constituency has the highest number of candidates (24), Hoskote and Anekal follow with 23 each. Seven constituencies - Mangaluru, Bantwal, Tirthahalli, Kundapur, Kapu, Yemkanamardi, and Deodurg - have five candidates each, the least.

State capital Bengaluru, which alone has 28 Assembly segments, has 389 candidates, including 38 women.

The highest number of Independents are in Hoskote (15), Ballari City and Srirangapatna (12 each), Chitradurga (11), Gauribidanur, Kolar and Yelahanka (10).

The highest number of women contestants (six) are from Rajarajeshwarinagar, Jayanagar and KGF constituencies. Nippani, Harapanahalli, Malur, and Chickpet follow with five women candidates each.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, said a total of 16 constituencies have more than 15 candidates in the fray. "We will use more than two ballot units in these constituencies," he said.

Single-phase polling

Polling will be held in a single phase for all 224 constituencies, including 36 reserved for Scheduled Castes and 15 for Scheduled Tribes (STs). The counting will take place on May 13.

A look at candidates

16 constituencies have more than 15 candidates

Rajajinagar, Hoskote, Yelahanka, Byatrayanpura, Ballari City, Hanur, Gauribidanur, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Hubballi-Dharwad Central, Kolar, Gangavati, Srirangapatna, Krishnaraja, Narsimharaja, Raichur

Total candidates in the fray 2,613

Male	2,427
Female	185
Others	1

Party-wise contestants

BJP	224
Congress	223
AAP	209
JD (S)	207
BSP	133
NPP	2
CPI (M)	4
Registered unrecognised parties	693
Independents	918

Will the Congress recover from last time's depleted victory margin in its stronghold?

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Spread over either side of the national highway that links the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), the Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency has tech parks, large residential pockets, semi-urban and rural areas close to the airport, and a good number of lakes.

After representing the constituency for three straight terms, former Minister Krishna Byre Gowda from the Congress is again seeking the mandate of voters.

In the previous elections, Mr. Byre Gowda defeated the nearest contender from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) A. Ravi by 5,671 votes. However, he defeated Mr. Ravi in the 2013 elections by a massive margin of 32,299 votes. The drop in margin has rekindled hopes in the BJP that it has a better chance to win the constituency that has remained a stronghold of the Congress.

Multiple aspirants

There were multiple aspirants to get the BJP ticket and Mr. Ravi, who hoped for a chance again, was ditched by the party.

Another strong contender, K. Munidra Kumar, a former councillor, too was denied the ticket. The BJP finally fielded H.C. Thammesh Gowda. The Janata Dal (Secular), which has a history of changing the candidates, has fielded Nagaraj P.

Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency
What people want
Motorists demand fixing traffic mess at Hebbal flyover junctions, which successive governments failed to address
Hebbal flyover links CBD areas with national highway connecting Kempegowda International Airport
Drinking water supply is a concern for many residential areas
There is demand for government-run PU, degree, and hospitals
Poor transport system from suburban areas of the constituency needs to be addressed
Main candidates
Krishna Byre Gowda Congress
Nagaraj P JD (S)
H.C. Thammesh Gowda BJP
History of the seat
After the constituency was formed, Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda represented the constituency for consecutive three times (2008, 2013, and 2018)
It helped Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda to become a Cabinet Minister
He defeated A. Ravi from BJP in all the three elections
BJP denied ticket to Mr. Ravi this time
JD(S) changed candidates in every election
Male 2, 55,185
Total voters 4,93,528
Others 116
Female 2,38,227

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	Krishna Byre Gowda Congress	1,14,964 45.31%	A. Ravi BJP	1,09,293 43.08%	Chandra T.G. JD (S)	22,490 8.86%
2013	Krishna Byre Gowda Congress	95,926 46.14%	A. Ravi BJP	63,627 30.59%	Hanumanthe Gowda JD (S)	41,360 19.85%

Ravi prasad, a resident of Sahakarnagar, said, "In the last three elections, the voters favoured the Congress here, but the margin drastically dropped in 2018. It appears that Mr. Byre Gowda does not want to take any chances and has been actively involved in various programmes to connect with voters, especially the younger generation. Conducting the Udyog Mela, cultural and sports events was almost a routine affair. The MLA is heavily banking on his work on rejuvenation of lakes in his constituency and resident welfare measures. Meanwhile, ticket aspirants from the BJP too were busy with various programmes to woo the voters, including conducting religious programmes."

Asked about the ongoing campaign, Mr. Byre Gowda said, "Last time, there was a trend against the Congress across the State which reduced our tally from 122 to 80 seats. Hence, my margin of victory also came down. But this time, the current is decidedly against the BJP and they will see their votes decrease even in Byatarayanapura. Issues of corruption, price rise, and an unstable government are all on the minds of the people. In the last four years, I have spent more time on the ground connecting with people and that will put me in good stead this time."

Targeting Mr. Byre Gowda, Mr. Thammesh Gowda said, "It is very unfortunate that despite representing the constituency for three consecutive times and becoming a Cabinet Minister, the MLA failed to provide good drinking water facilities in various parts of the constituency and the constituency does not have government-run higher education colleges and super-speciality hospitals in Kuvempunagar, Thanisandra, and many other areas, residents are not getting drinking water supply on a regular basis. People are looking for a change."

When asked about his candidature, he said, "There is no difference of opinion. All have extended cooperation to me and we are fighting together against the opponent parties."

Responding to criticism by the BJP that there is no tertiary care government hospital and no first-grade college in the constituency, Mr. Byre Gowda said recently, he had got four government high schools and three PU colleges, and the next step would be to get a first-grade college.

"Usually, government hospitals are established at the zonal or taluk level and not at the constituency level. I will work to bring a multi-speciality hospital to serve North Bengaluru, which is much needed here," he said, adding many constituencies continuously represented by the BJP also do not have government hospitals or first-grade colleges.

Mr. Byre Gowda was vocal about the BJP government not completing the expansion of the Hebbal flyover that was sanctioned when the Congress was in power. The junction that connects CBD areas with the airport, remains one of the major traffic bottlenecks.

48-year-old accountant dies of stab injuries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An accountant in the wholesale onion market at RMC Yard who was stabbed on Sunday evening, succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning. The deceased has been identified as Umapathy, 48, hailing from Tamil Nadu and residing here alone at Nandini Layout.

According to the police, a gang assaulted him and stabbed him multiple times in the abdomen and left him bleeding on the street on Sunday evening at RMC Yard. Though he was rushed to Victoria Hospital and was being treated, he succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning.

A preliminary investigation has revealed that Mr. Umapathy had an extra-marital affair with a woman, residing in Coolie Nagar, for a few years. However, the woman broke up with him over a year ago, which he did not take well, said the police.

According to the police, a gang assaulted him and stabbed him multiple times in the abdomen and left him bleeding on the street on Sunday evening at RMC Yard

According to the police, he often quarrelled with her, called her and blackmailed her, saying that he would upload a private video of them on social media if she did not continue the affair.

On Sunday morning, he reportedly called her and blackmailed her. The police suspect the woman's involvement in the murder.

The RMC Yard police have registered a murder case and are probing the case further.

KIA worker killed after car rams his bike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A biker was killed in an accident on Ballari Road on Monday morning when a car rammed his bike.

The deceased has been identified as Yateesh, 29, a resident of Chikkajala village.

Way to work

He was working at the Kempegowda International Airport and was on his way to work at around 4 a.m. on Monday, when the accident occurred.

The Chikkajala Traffic police have booked a case and arrested the SUV driver.

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Presiding Officer
For School Management

CORRIGENDUM

This is to inform the general public, that we have released a Public Notice dated 16th April 2023, in respect of PUBLIC NOTICE we have made Site No.9, Katha No.617, formed out of Property **Old No. 35/4, New No. 35/9,** not Site No.9, Katha No.617, formed out of Property No.35/4.

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M: 9845846428, 7204863700

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 'Scheduled Property' mentioned hereunder is owned by and is in actual physical possession of **Mr. MANJUNATHA .M** residing at No.16, Janapriya Layout, Malenallasandra,Bangalore (hereinafter referred as 'Owner'),Purchased from **1)Smt. Geetharani, 2) Kum. Bhushitha.G, 3) Kum. Niveditha.G, 4) Sri.Krishnamachar.V, 5)Smt. Vakalabharanam, 6) Sri. Jayadeva.V through their GPA Holders 1) Sri. Krishnappa & 2) Sri. Manju.C.** The Owner claim that their rights are free from all encumbrances, charges, claims, etc. of whatsoever nature and that they have a clear and marketable title in respect of the 'Scheduled Property'. This public notice is issued for verification of the title of the 'Owner' with respect to the 'Scheduled Property'. All or any persons including any banks, financial institutions or any other party or person, having any valid and legal claim, right, title, demand or interest by virtue of any sale, gift, lease, tenancy, license, exchange, partition, mortgage, charge, lien, inheritance, succession, trust, maintenance, possession, easement, agreement, lis-pendence, stay order, attachment, decree, specific performance or otherwise or any other right of whatsoever nature are required/ called upon to convey their objection/s in writing at the address mentioned below, within (7) Seven days from issuance of this notice, along with all supporting documents relating to such claim, failing which it shall be presumed that there is /are no claim/s and such claim/s if any, shall be considered to be waived and abandoned in respect of the 'Scheduled Property'.

'SCHEDULED PROPERTY'

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing SITE No.16, Katha No. 51/1,Property No. 51/1, Janapriya Nagar 2nd Phase, Nallasandra Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore., Measuring East to West: 40 Feet, North to South 20 Feet, Totally 800 Sq.feet. Bounded by:

East by : Road, **West by :** Site No. 35,
North by : Site No. 15
South By : Site No. 17.

Contact: **MANJUNATHA .M**
No.16, Janapriya Layout, Malenallasandra, Bangalore. Ph: 9972820004

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client has agreed to purchase the 'Schedule Property', from its owner Sri. J. Purna Chandra S/o Sri. Jayaramappa, at no.110, 1st floor, Temple View Apartment, RR Nagar, Bengaluru 560098, Karnataka.

Any Person/s, Societies, Association/s, Government Authorities, Financial institution/s, Banks, Judicial authorities asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim/s against the Schedule Property or any documents thereof or objecting to such sale in favour of my Client, should write or contact me within 10 days from the date of issuance of this Public Notice, with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period, my Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property being **SiteNo.2,** BBMP municipal no.31, formed in portion of Assessment No. 5, situated at Guddadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently known as Chinnanna Layout, BBMP Ward No. 20, Bengaluru, Site measuring East to West : Northern Side : 38', (Thirty Eight feet), Southern Side :40' (Fourty feet) and North to South: Eastern side 62' (Sixty Two feet), Western Side:64 ½ (Sixty Four and half feet), totally measuring 2466.75 Square feet and bounded on:

East by : Road.
West by : Site no.3.
North by : Property belonging to Sri.Subramani .
South by : Road.

For NAYARKODI ASSOCIATES
Dhiraj Nayarkodi, Advocate
Office at #4706, 7th floor, High Point IV, Palace Road, Bangalore-560001.
Mob: 9886755278.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri. K. Anil Kumar and Smt. Aparna Anil Kumar, have negotiated to develop the Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule below from its Owner Smt. Padma Sangali, wife of late Major Ashok Sangli, No.112, Jala Vayu Towers, Opp. Byappanahalli Metro Sation, Sadanandanagar, East of NGEF, Bangalore-560038. Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/ instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/ their objection/s claim/s, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within SEVEN days of the issuance of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable Site property bearing No. 45, House list No. 220/4 and Site No. 45-A, House List No. 219/2, in property No. 112, New BBMP Khata No. 997/220/4/219/2, Site No. 45, 45-A, situated at Horamavu Agara Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West: 60-0 Feet and North to South: 80-0 Feet, in all measuring 4800 Square Feet, and bounded as follows:-

ON THE EAST: 30-0 ft Road,
WEST : Site No 37 & 38,
NORTH : Site No.44,
SOUTH : Private Property.

We have no objection to issue this Public Notice in any of the dailies. K. ANIL KUMAR & APARNA ANILKUMAR

Bengaluru: (G. SRINIVASAN) Advocate,
No. 4, 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN PAPAREDDY PALYA, NAGARBHAVI 2ND STAGE BANGALORE – 560072. **Ph. No. 9480836829.**

Indian scientists to develop own technology under NQM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is the only mission in the country where technology has not been adopted from any advanced country, said Akhilesh Gupta, in-charge of the NQM, which was approved by the Union Cabinet last week.

Dr. Gupta, who is also Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board at the Department of Technology (DST), addressing a virtual press conference from New Delhi on Monday, said, "In the past, India had adopted technologies developed abroad and implemented them here. The NQM is the only mission, so far, wherein Indian scientists will develop our own technology. Though India will need international cooperation, it will be mainly for knowledge exchange," he said.

He added that the ₹6,003.65-crore National Quantum Mission (NQM) will allow Indian scientists to develop indigenous technology, systems, devices, and materials required to propel research and development in quantum technology.

Under the NQM, there will be four thematic hubs (T-hub) operating for each of the four verticals: quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices.

Dr. Gupta added that the DST will formally call for proposals to decide the establishment of T-hubs in India and these will be a consortium of research institutions. "Based on the expertise of the institute, they will steer the research under the respective vertical," he said.

The NQM will be spearheaded by the DST between 2023-24 and 2030-31. The mission is expected to benefit communication, health, finance, and energy as well as drug design and Space applications.

The mission targets the development of intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1,000 physical qubits in eight years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology. Satellite-based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2,000 kilometres within India, long distance secure quantum communications with other countries are among the other deliverables.

TOOLBOX

How to check relative humidity on a hot day to keep yourself cool

Relative humidity is important as it factors in the amount of vapour that air can hold at different temperatures. This article explains how one can calculate it through a simple experiment with household items; mathematical equations or an app or device

Vasudevan Mukunth

Beat the heat: Boys jump into the Hooghly river to cool themselves on a hot summer day, in Kolkata on April 21. PTI

Relative humidity is a simple concept as far as weather phenomena go, but it has significant, far-reaching consequences for how we must take care of ourselves on a hot or wet day.

Humidity is the amount of moisture in the air around us, and there are three ways to track it. The most common of them is absolute humidity – the mass of water vapour in a given volume of air and water vapour mixture, expressed as kg/m3. The second is specific humidity, equal to the mass of the moisture divided by the mass of air. It is expressed as a dimensionless number (but sometimes as grams per kilogram among other similar units).

The third way is relative humidity: it is important because it factors in the amount of vapour that air can hold at different temperatures. Determining its value is a bit more complicated – it is the vapour density of the air divided by the saturation vapour density at dry-bulb temperature.

Why does relative humidity matter?

On a hot day, our body uses sweat to cool itself. Sweat is released via our skin to the surface. There, the liquid evaporates. When water changes phase from liquid to vapour, it absorbs heat from the surface on which it lies. So when sweat evaporates, it absorbs heat from the skin, cooling it.

The higher the relative humidity of air, the more it is filled with moisture. When air already contains a lot of moisture, it won't easily accept more. This means that the sweat on your skin can't evaporate. At the same time, the body keeps sweating as it is still expecting to cool itself. As a result, if the relative humidity is high, you can sweat on a hot day even when you are sitting still while your body keeps accumulating heat. This can quickly become dangerous.

A relative humidity of 30-60% is generally considered to be comfortable. Environments that have lower levels than this typically use humidifiers to increase the humidity. When the level is higher, a fan will help move the air around you and help sweat evaporate better.

In both cases, drinking water is important.

What does relative humidity imply physically?

Warmer air can hold more moisture than cooler air. So at the same absolute humidity, the relative humidity of warmer air will be lower than that of cooler air. It is like saying two vessels can hold the same amount of water – just that the bigger vessel will be less full than the smaller vessel.

This is why, for example, while Chennai had an absolute humidity of 70% at 2.30 pm on April 23, its relative humidity was lower, around 60%, because it had an ambient temperature of 32°C. The change in the capacity for moisture as the air warms is also non-linear, meaning it doesn't increase by the same amount as the air warms. For example, the difference as it warms over 20° C from -20° C to 0° C is small, but there is an enormous improvement in its vapour-carrying capacity as it warms over 20° C from 30° C to 50° C.

How do you measure relative humidity?

There are a few ways to measure relative humidity. One is to conduct a simple experiment with household items, another is to use maths and a third is to use an app or device.

For the experiment, you need two mercury thermometers, some cotton, rubber bands, and access to cold water.

First, make sure both thermometers show the same reading, say, under a fan. Next, soak some cotton in cold water and wrap it around the bulb of one of the thermometers with a rubber band. Hold this thermometer under the fan, such that water from the cotton evaporates, and record the thermometer reading after five minutes. Hold up the other thermometer in the air and record its reading after five minutes. You will thus have the wet-bulb and dry-bulb temperatures, respectively.

Next, subtract the wet-bulb temperature from the dry-bulb temperature to get the temperature difference. Finally, use the relative humidity chart (on the right) to get the relative humidity value. For example, if the difference was 6°C and the dry-bulb temperature was 28°C, the relative humidity would have been 59%.

A psychrometer is a device that has two such thermometers plus a chart to get the final reading. Modern, electronic psychrometers can calculate the relative humidity directly.

For a rough sense, the lower the wet-bulb temperature, the drier the air is, and the less relatively humid it is.

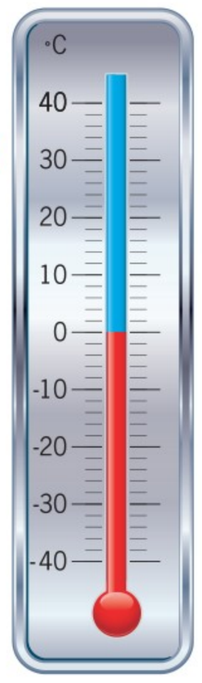
For the mathematical method, there are two ways (among others) to estimate the relative humidity, one simpler and one a bit more involved.

The first way is to divide the actual vapour pressure (e) by the saturated vapour pressure (e_s). The vapour pressure is the amount of moisture that air contains. The 'saturated' value is the maximum possible amount. The given formula requires the dew point (Td), which you can obtain from a weather website.

Relative humidity chart

Compare the dry-bulb temperature in the first column with the difference between the dry-bulb and wet-bulb temperatures (topmost row, °C) to find the relative humidity in percentage

Dry-bulb temperature	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10°C	88	77	66	55	44	34	24	15	6	-
11°C	89	78	67	56	46	36	27	18	9	-
12°C	89	78	68	58	48	39	29	21	12	-
13°C	89	79	69	59	50	41	32	22	15	7
14°C	90	79	70	60	51	42	34	26	18	10
15°C	90	80	71	61	53	44	36	27	20	13
16°C	90	81	71	63	54	46	38	30	23	15
17°C	90	81	72	64	55	47	40	32	25	18
18°C	91	82	73	65	57	49	41	34	27	20
19°C	91	82	74	65	58	40	43	36	29	22
20°C	91	83	74	66	59	51	44	37	31	24
21°C	91	83	75	67	60	53	46	39	32	26
22°C	92	83	76	68	61	54	47	40	34	28
23°C	92	84	76	69	62	55	48	42	36	30
24°C	92	84	77	69	62	56	49	43	37	31
25°C	92	84	77	70	63	57	50	44	39	33
26°C	92	85	78	71	64	58	51	46	40	34



$R_H = (e/e_s)*100$

$e = 6.11 \times 10^{((7.5 \times Td)/(237.3 + Td))}$

For e_s, use the same formula but replace Td with T, the actual temperature.

The second way is to calculate relative humidity starting from the specific humidity, pressure and temperature, using the Clausius-Clapeyron equation.

If you prefer software, search for "hygrometer" in your phone's app store to locate some options. (A hygrometer is an instrument that measures humidity.) Note that the app will only work if your phone has a sensor that can sense humidity. If you like hardware, psychrometers and devices called hygrometers are available in physical as well as online stores.

Why does the wet-bulb temperature matter?

A more direct way to understand the implications of relative humidity for your wellbeing is in the form of the wet-bulb temperature (also known as the adiabatic saturation temperature). It is the lowest temperature a surface – like your skin – can reach when water evaporates from it. The wet-bulb temperature is equal to the dry-bulb temperature when the relative humidity is 100%.

A wet-bulb temperature in an environment of 32-35°C or higher can be quickly lethal, even if you are not doing any physical activity or are in the shade. (At least one study has shown that even a wet-bulb temperature of more than 29° C can be dangerous.)

The climate crisis is rendering heatwaves more common, more frequent, more spread out, and more potent over the Indian subcontinent. As a study published in May 2022 says, "Whether today's most impactful heatwaves could have occurred in a pre-industrial climate, traditionally a central focus of attribution research, is fast becoming an obsolete question. The next frontier for attribution science is to inform adaptation decision-making in the face of unprecedented future heat."

One way to adapt is to keep an eye on the relative humidity, drink lots of water, and cool yourself.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. R. Santhanam, 9/2A, Kasiappa Store, Small Chowk, Trichy, wants to know the meaning of the sentence 'We cannot wish away merit'"

" 'Wish away' means 'to wish that something were out of existence,' 'put to end'. 'We cannot wish away merit' means 'We cannot make it disappear through our wish'. We can't wish away facts means that we can't remove them by wishing to remove them."

"Mr. R. Venkateswarulu, UC, Khammam, wants to know the difference between 'sink' and 'drown'."

" 'To sink' is 'to fall gradually and slowly through water or air'.

The boat is sinking in the sea.

'Drown' means 'to suffer death by suffocation in liquid'.

He was drowned in the river.

She drowned the cat."

"Prof. A. P. Srinivasamurthy, 151, Surabhi, XX Main, X Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysore, wants to know the meaning of 'kickback'."

"It has two meanings: (a) 'recoil', 'a sharp violent reaction' (b) 'money received, usually because of help or favours given or sometimes because of confidential agreement or as a result of force applied', 'the usual secret rebate of part of a purchase price by the seller to the buyer or to the one who directed or influenced the purchaser to buy from such seller'.

He kicked up a row over kickbacks."

"Mr. K. D. Singh, Azamgarh, wants to know the meaning of 'easier said than done'."

"It means that something is easier to talk about than to do.

"What is your problem?"

"I have to do a lot of homework."

"Then do it."

"There's a lot to do and I don't have the time."

"Look. Write down all that you have to do on a piece of paper. Do them one by one. Don't panic."

"Well, it's easier said than done."

"Miss K. Rema, 30, Balajinagar, Anakaputhur, Madras, wants to know the pronounciation of 'xerox'."

"The first 'x' is pronounced 'z' and the last one like the 'x' in fox'. The 'e' is pronounced like the 'ea' in 'fear' and 'ear'. The 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'fox'. The stress is on the first syllable. The 'e' can also be pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed'. When it is pronounced like this, the stress is on the second syllable."

Published in The Hindu on October 13, 1987.

Word of the day

Singe:
a surface burn; burn superficially or lightly; become superficially burned (used as both a noun and a verb)

Synonyms: scorch, sear, swinge

Usage: *My eyebrows singed when I bent over the flames.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/singepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sɪnʤ/

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Apple's CEO Tim Cook opened the first physical Apple store in India in Mumbai last week. Here is a quiz on the company, its products and legacy

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1
What is the name of Apple's virtual assistant?

QUESTION 2
Who were the co-founders of Apple Inc along with Steve Jobs?

QUESTION 3
How do we better know Apple's first portable music player?

QUESTION 4
What was Project Purple?

QUESTION 5
Who was the director of *Steve Jobs* a 2015 biographical drama film? A British-American co-production, it was adapted from the 2011 biography by Walter Isaacson and interviews conducted by Sorkin.

Visual question:
This individual directed Apple's famous television commercial which aired during the 1984 Super Bowl. Name hime. What did the number '1984' signify? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The cricketer who has scored 75 100 international centuries. **Ans: Virat Kohli**
2. The bowler who dismissed Tendulkar the most times in the 200 Tests the latter played for India. **Ans: James Anderson, England**
3. Among the 58 stadiums which hosted Tendulkar in completed Tests, it was on this ground that Tendulkar scored his most Test runs. **Ans: Chepauk stadium, Chennai**
4. This Australian batsman scored a whopping 614 runs between December 2015 and February 2016. **Ans: Adam Voges**
5. Tendulkar dismissed this batsman the most across Tests and ODIs. **Ans: Inzamam Ul Haq**
Visual: This bowler holds the distinction of getting Tendulkar out for the first time in this mode of dismissal in his Test career. **Ans: Ashley Giles, stumping**
Early Birds: Aviral Saini| Prahlad Morya| Varghese Joseph

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BMRCL laying track on missing link of Whitefield metro

Due to missing link, metro passengers are forced to use feeder service for a distance of 5 km to reach K.R. Puram after getting down at Baiyappanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), which has set a deadline to open the entire Whitefield line by June, has started laying the track between K.R. Pura and Baiyappanahalli metro stations.

Prior to the announcement of dates for Karnataka Assembly elections, the BMRCL had opened the metro line from K.R. Pura to Whitefield, covering a distance of 13.71 km. The line has 12 stations. However, a stretch of close to 2 km could not be opened due to pending work.

Due to the missing link, metro passengers are forced to use feeder service for a distance of 5 km to reach K.R. Puram after getting down at Baiyappanahalli.

Feeder services run by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) are being utilised by up to 8,000 passengers every day.

BMRCL has set a deadline to open the entire Whitefield line by June. SUDHAKARA JAIN

An official of the BMRCL said, "As the open web girder work across a live track near Benniganahalli has been completed, the track is being laid from either side. Measures have been taken to complete pending work of Benniganahalli station, which is located between K.R. Pura and Baiyappanahalli. The deadline to complete the work is June. We are hopeful of meeting the deadline. Once the traction, signalling and other related works are completed, trial run will be carried out before approaching the commissioner of metro railway safety for an inspection."

Close to 27,000 passengers are using the new K.R. Pura to Whitefield metro line. A major jump in patronage is expected only after the BMRCL opens the entire 15.5-km metro line.

Old FoB at Benniganahalli to be dismantled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited is constructing a new foot overbridge (FoB) for pedestrians near the Benniganahalli metro station.

Sources said that the existing FoB, located near Tin Factory, will be dismantled once the new FoB is ready. In addition to the Whitefield metro line, the BMRCL is also constructing the ORR-airport metro line parallel to the Whitefield line.

The line to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) goes via the Outer Ring Road (Kasturinagar, Nagawara, Hebbal).

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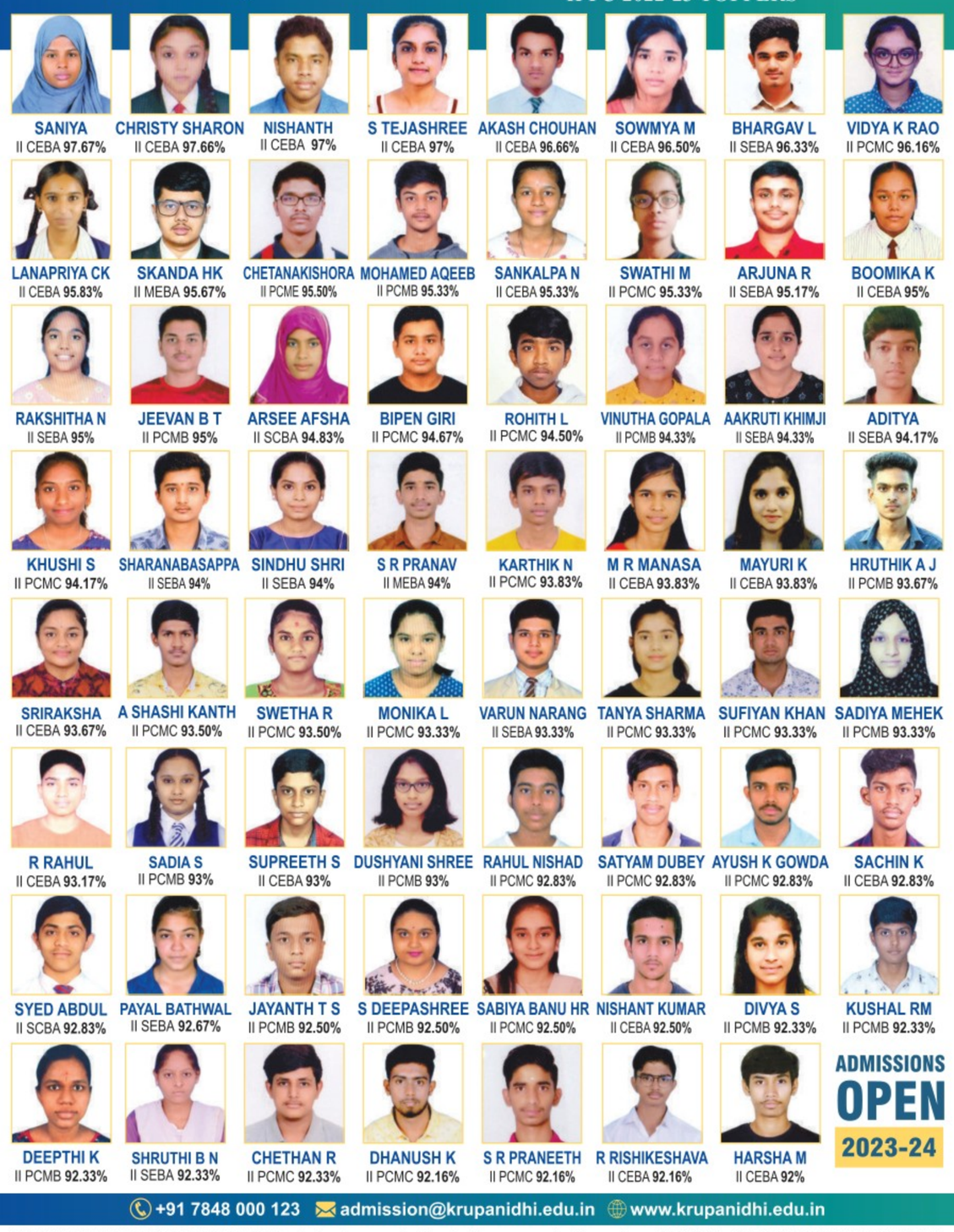
SANIYA II CEBA 97.67%
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SINDHU SHRI II SEBA 94%
S R PRANAV II MEBA 94%
KARTHIK N II PCMC 93.83%
M R MANASA II CEBA 93.83%
MAYURI K II CEBA 93.83%
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A SHASHI KANTH II PCMC 93.50%
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TANYA SHARMA II PCMC 93.33%
SUFIYAN KHAN II PCMC 93.33%
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R RAHUL II CEBA 93.17%
SADIA S II PCMB 93%
SUPREETH S II CEBA 93%
DUSHYANI SHREE II PCMB 93%
RAHUL NISHAD II PCMC 92.83%
SATYAM DUBEY II PCMC 92.83%
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SACHIN K II CEBA 92.83%
SYED ABDUL II SCBA 92.83%
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S DEEPASHREE II PCMB 92.50%
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DIVYA S II PCMB 92.33%
KUSHAL RM II PCMB 92.33%
DEEPTHI K II PCMB 92.33%
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CHETHAN R II PCMC 92.33%
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HARSHA M II CEBA 92%
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NIM 4.46%
ROA 1.97%
Gross NPA 1.39%
Net NPA 0.62%
PCR 90.90%
CRAR 26.26%

Financial Results for the Quarter / Year ended 31st March 2023
₹ in Crores

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	1254.01	1200.66	4710.15	4646.12
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	347.23	279.94	1393.64	1124.61
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	347.23	279.94	1393.64	1124.61
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	253.05	226.95	1029.26	821.91
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)	NA	NA	NA	NA
6.	Equity Share Capital	158.35	142.51	158.35	142.51
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous Year	-	-	6770.00	5193.19
8.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
	a) Basic:	15.98	15.93	68.06	57.67
	b) Diluted:	15.98	15.93	68.06	57.67

*Annualised

NOTE:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange(s) (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and on the Bank's Website (www.tmb.in)
2. Information relating to Total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to banks.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
S. Krishnan
Managing Director & CEO

Place : Mumbai
Date : 24.04.2023

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A BG-BGE

AITUC complains to ILO on changes made by State to Factories Act

The trade union federation says the Bill violates ILO conventions and declarations to which India is a signatory

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The dilution of the Factories Act, 1948, to enhance the daily maximum hours of work from nine to 12 hours and allow women in the night shifts, among others, by the Karnataka government by amendments through The Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, has now reached the International Labour Organisation (ILO), with the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) stating that the Bill violated the ILO conventions and declarations to which India is a signatory.

The AITUC, which lodged a complaint, urged the ILO to make appropriate intervention to make the Indian government act swiftly to impress upon Karnataka to revoke The Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, currently awaiting presidential assent.

India is one of the founding members of ILO.

Fact sheet

What are the amendments to Factories Act, 1948

- The Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Bill 2023 has:
- Increased daily maximum hours of work from 9 to 12 not exceeding 48 hours per week
- Increased hours of work of a worker without an interval from 5 to 6 hours
- Increased the permissible hours of overtime to 144 hours per quarter
- Allows women workers to work in night shift (from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.)

Conventions violated

- C144- (International Labour Standards), 1978, that was ratified by India on June 27, 1978
- C001- Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919, that was ratified by India on 14 July, 1921
- C004 – Night Work (Women) Convention, 1919, that was ratified by India on July 14, 1921
- India has also ratified Protocol to the Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948, and C 89- Revised Convention on Night Work (Women)

The amendments were primarily brought to help electronic manufacturing sector setting up factories in the State.

What it provides for

The amendments provide for an increase in daily maximum hours of work from nine to 12 hours, not exceeding 48 hours per week, increased the hours of work without an interval from five to six hours, increased the permissible hours of overtime to 144 hours per quarter, and allows women to work in the night shift (from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

In T.N. too

A similar Bill, The Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which has been criticised.

The AITUC also pointed out that Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat also have made amendments increasing the maximum limits of working and overtime hours.

"The Indian Labour Conference, the apex-level tripartite committee, has not been convened to discuss and trade unions are left with no democratic space to raise the concerns of the workers," said the complaint by AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur.

These amendments are in violation of the ILO Conventions C 144 - the Convention on tripartite consultations (International Labour Standards), 1978, that was ratified by India on June 27, 1978; C001- Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 that was ratified by India on 14, July 1921 and C004 - Night Work (Women) Convention 1919 that was ratified by India on July 14, 1921. India has also ratified Protocol to the Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948 and C 89 - Revised Convention on Night Work (Women), the AITUC pointed out, adding that ILO's declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work is violated.

India is one of the founding members of the International Labour Organisation

The union pointed to previous WHO and ILO studies that have said long hours of work led to premature death of the workers, besides hampering their social development.

Citing the United States Department of Labour, it said working longer hours and overtime does not increase productivity. The complaint stated that longer working hours do not create jobs and compelling night work for women is not gender equality.

From Page One

Lokayukta raids 34 premises linked to eight officials

The Lokayukta police recovered ₹1,47,16,000, USD 10,298, Dubai Dirham 1180, and Egypt Pound 35 from the premises linked to him. The police also found that he owned 14 flats in and around Yelahanka.

The other officers raided have been identified as T. Hanumantharaya, Assistant Executive Engineer, Storm Water Drains division, Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP; Hussain Saab, Executive Engineer, Gescom, Ballari; Suresh Meda, Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Department, Bidar; Vijayakumara Swamy, Deputy Tahsildar, Mudabi Nadakacheri, Basavakalyan, Bidar; I.M. Nagaraj, DCF (retd); N.J. Nagaraj, Tahsildar, Holalkere taluk, and Venkateshappa, Executive Officer, Banagrpet Taluk Office, Kolar.<SU>

The police said that a huge cache of incriminating documents relating to the assets of these individual officers has been recovered during the raids, apart from cash, gold jewellery and silver articles.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (April 25, Tuesday), the following explainer is available:

- The Wagner group's actions in Africa
  bit.ly/wagnergroupafrica

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

As evacuation begins, relatives of Hakki Pikki tribes stuck in Sudan wait with bated breath

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

As India started 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate its nationals from conflict-torn Sudan, the relatives of over 100 Hakki Pikki tribes from Mysuru who are stuck in Sudan are happy about the rescue operation.

As many as 108 Hakki Pikki community people are said to be stuck in Sudan and efforts are on to bring them back safely to India. Most of them are from Davangere, Shivamogga, and Mysuru districts.

Pakshirajapura in Hunsur, Mysuru district, where Hakki Pikki tribes have settled. DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Devraj from Pakshirajapura in Hunsur taluk, whose relatives are stranded in El Feshir in Sudan, said that he got the information from his father, who is also there, that the Indian embassy is going to send a bus to rescue them from El Feshir to Port Sudan, from there they will be evacuated to India. "This evening (Monday), I spoke to my father who is in El Feshir, capital of the North Darfur province along with other 36 members of our community. He said that they have got communication that on Tuesday morning, the bus will go to their place and they will be rescued to Port Sudan and from there, the Indian Army will bring them back to our country. We are now happy that our family will return home," Mr. Devraj said.

"All my relatives are safe and the violence also has come down. However, there is a shortage of food and water," he added.

P.S. Nanjunda Swamy, State president, Karnataka Adivasi Budakattu Hakki Pikki Jananga, said, "We are continuously in touch with the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner. We are happy to know about the rescue operation by the government."

Meanwhile, Manoj Rajan, Commissioner for Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, said they are in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) regarding the safety of people from Karnataka in Sudan. "We have been coordinating with MEA and the operation has already started. The exact number of Kannadigas who have been stuck in Sudan except the Hakki Pikki tribe is not known," Mr. Rajan added.

Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar on Monday announced that 'Operation Kaveri' has been started by the Indian government. "Operation Kaveri gets under way to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan. More on their way. Our ships and aircraft are set to bring them back home. Committed to assist all our brethren in Sudan," Mr. Jaishankar said in a tweet on Monday.

Meanwhile, replying to Mr. Jaishankar's tweet, Opposition leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said, "Thank you for bringing back people. Hope everyone comes back safely."

On April 18, Mr. Siddaramaiah urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Jaishankar, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to intervene to rescue the Hakki Pikki tribes stuck in Sudan.

Mr. Jaishankar replied, and termed Mr. Siddaramaiah's request "appalling". He further said that it was "grossly irresponsible of you to politicise this situation". "There are lives at stake; don't do politics," he added.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, APR. 25
RISE 06:02 SET 18:33
RISE 10:02 SET 23:26

WEDNESDAY, APR. 26
RISE 06:02 SET 18:34
RISE 10:56 SET 00:00

THURSDAY, APR. 27
RISE 06:01 SET 18:34
RISE 11:49 SET 00:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	26
Mysuru	35	23
Bengaluru	35	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant with mist & haze. Spell of moderate rain & thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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HC: Don't act against actor Chetan for now if he undertakes to delete tweets against judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Union government not to precipitate the matter further, till June 2, the issue of cancellation of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card given to Kannada actor Chetan Kumar, if he submits an undertaking stating that he would delete tweets against the judiciary and matters sub-judice, and exercises restraint in tweeting on such matters.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on April 21 on a petition filed by the actor, who has questioned the legality of the order passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) cancelling his OCI card on the allegation that the actor, who is a citizen of the United States by his birth, had indulged in "anti-India activities".

Asking him to submit the undertaking within four days, the court made it clear that any violation of the undertaking by the petitioner would result in automatic vacation of the interim protection given to him.

Actor Chetan FILE PHOTO

The OCI card was issued to the actor on the application made by him in November, 2018.

However, the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) of the Bureau of Immigration, MHA, on June 6, 2022, issued notice to the actor asking him to show cause why the OCI card issued to him should not be cancelled for allegedly involving in the criminal activities of making derogatory, insulting and objectionable remarks, promoting ill-will, hatred or disharmony against a particular community, for violating COVID-19 guidelines, and for making derogatory remarks about the judiciary through Twitter. The petitioner had on July 4, 2022, sent his reply to the notice.

Later, the MHA on March 28, 2023, passed the order cancelling his OCI card, acting under Section 7D(b)-showing disaffection to the Constitution, and 7D(e)-doing things against the sovereignty and integrity of India, of the Citizenship Act.

'No sufficient ingredient'

Senior advocate Aditya Sondhi, appearing for the actor, contended that there was no sufficient ingredient to cancel the OCI card and the actor should have been given an opportunity of hearing in addition to replying to the notice. The petitioner would likely be deported once the cancellation of OCI card was given effect to, it was pointed out to the court seeking a stay of the cancellation order.

However, Deputy Solicitor-General of India Shanthi Bhushan appearing for FRRO and Additional Advocate-General Aruna Shyam, appearing for the State government opposed grant of any interim relief to the actor, while pointing out that the petitioner was in the habit of tweeting about the judiciary and on matters that were sub-judice.

Observing that the allegations, prime facie, would not meet the ingredients of the provisions of the Act invoked against the petitioner, the court directed the MHA not to precipitate the matter while imposing the condition on the actor that he should give the undertaking.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

R Mukundan (73), Retired General Manager - Circulation, The Hindu Chennai passed away on 23-04-2023. Address. A 206, Ceebros Belvedere Classic Farms, Elcot Avenue, Sholinganallur,Chennai-119. Ct: 9176385100

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Mobile : 73495 98454
SUKHI ARCADE, 175, Chickpet Main Road, Bangalore - 560 053.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHAGYAMMA Muniraj, R/a No.45, M.R.Road, Kalkere, Horamauv, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to Bhagyamma vide affidavit dt: 24.04.2023 sworn before Notary Kundan Babu.M, B'luru

I, SONY Sahita, R/a Flat A-105, Siroya Environ, 5th Cross, SSA Road, Anandanagar, Bangalore-560024 have changed my name to Vanita Raheja vide affidavit dt: 24.04.2023 sworn before Notary Kundan Babu.M, B'luru

I Nityanand Dubey S/o Ram Prem Dubey, residing at F-1204, SJR Parkway Homes, Near Rayasandra Lake, Rayadandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560099, have changed the name of minor Son Atulya Dubey aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as Om Dubey for all purposes in future

I Avinash Kumar (Given Name) S/O, Dharmendra Kumar R/o Flat-B109, Mathrusree Silver Arcade, 4th Cross, Karnasree Layout, Medahalli, Bengaluru - 560049 have changed my name to Avinash (Given Name) Kumar (Surname) for all purposes

I Bagavathy Sutha G W/o Mohan P R/o 307, MIG Apts Mb5, khb Suryanagar Phase-1 B'lore-560081 changed my name to Bagavathy Sutha M for all purposes vide affidavit dt 11/4/2023 notry Chanchala Lakshmi

ASTROLOGY

RUDRAKSH REMEDY (since1518): Kundli, Job, Vastu, Luv, Grah. 40 yrs exp Global Astro- 9896304000

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE VII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
P & SC No. 849/2022 (CCH-19)

BETWEEN: Ms. Diksha Dutt, aged 46 years, D/o Mr. Virendra Dutt, No. 547, 2nd Floor, Palladium, 16th "A" Main, Near Koramangala BDA Complex, 3rd Block Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034. ... **PETITIONER**
AND: Nil ... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the above named petitioner have filed a petition under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act for grant of succession certificate in respect of immovable property, morefully described in the schedule below, left behind by late Meenakshi Law, who passed way testate on 08/01/2015. The petitioner is niece and beneficiary of the assets, both moveable and immoveable of late Meenakshi Law by virtue of the said Will. If anyone has any claim over the schedule property or any objection in granting the succession certificate, to the aforesaid petitioner, they may appear in person, or by a pleader duly instructed and contest the petition before the City Civil Judge (CCH-19) at Bangalore on **02/06/2023 at 11:00 A.M.** If there are no claims/ objection filed, the Hon'ble Court shall proceed to allow the petition by granting the relief claimed therein.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immoveable property being vacant site measuring an extent of 0.04 acre, situated in the Registration District of Nilgiris, in the registration Sub District of Udagamandalam Joint-1, in the Town and Municipality of Udagamandalam, situated in R.S. No. 633, now R.S. No. 633/1B, of Ootacamund Town, located in Lovedale, Richings Road area, New T.S. No. 64 of Ward K.5, and bounded on: **East by:** R.S. No. 632, **West by:** land in R.S. No. 633/1B, **North by:** R.S. No. 633/1B Part, **South by:** 20 feet wide common road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immoveable property being vacant site measuring an extent of 0.04 acre, situated in the Registration District of Nilgiris, in the registration Sub District of Udagamandalam Joint-1, in the Town and Municipality of Udagamandalam, situated in R.S. No.633, New R.S. No. 633/1B, of Ootacamund Town, located in Lovedale, Richings Road area, New T.S. No. 57 of Ward K.5, and bounded on: **East by:** Land of Ms. Meenakshi Law, **West by:** R.S. No. 633/1C Part, **North by:** R.S. No. 633/C Part, **South by:** 20 feet wide common road.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 19/04/2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioners
M. ARUN PONAPPA
IInd Floor, Kasturi Complex, No.76, Mission Road, Bangalore-560027.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION)
TEST CASE No. 93/2019
LT. COL. HARNARINDER SINGH ...Petitioner
VERSUS
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI ...Respondents
To,
Relative No. (VIII)
Maya devi Nair D/o Late Swaroop Broom
19/1 Silli Point Outer Circle, Whitefield
Bangalore-560066

Whereas the petitioner has filed a petition under Section 278 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Letters of Administration AND WHEREAS THE **19.07.2023 at 10:30 A.M.** has been fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble Court. This notice is issued to you to come and see the proceedings in the Court on the date specified above before the grant of Letters of Administration. Should you wish to urge anything against the petition, you are at liberty to do so on the date fixed either in person or through an Advocate duly instructed.

Take further notice that in default of your appearance on the date fixed and in the matter mentioned above the petition will be heard and determined ex-parte in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the **16th day of March, 2023.**

Assistant Registrar (O) for REGISTRAR GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE MOTOR ACCIDENTS CLAIMS TRIBUNAL ERNAKULAM
I.A.NO. 27/2022 in O.P. (MV) No. 2468/2017

Petitioner/3rd Respondents: The New IndiaAssurance Co. Ltd, 3rd Floor, Kandamkulathy Towers, Opposite College Ground, M.G.Road, Ernakulam.

Respondents: 1) R. Suresh S/o Ramasamy, No. 7 RC Complex, 206-261 SG Mutt Road, Chamarajpet, Banglore-560018. 2) Senthil Raja. M, S/o. Murugesan, 2/6-A-Valavanthi P.O, Musiri Taluk, Trichi District, Tamil Nadu.

The above O.P(M.V) in I.A posted to 06.05.2023 at 11 A.M. before the Tribunal. You the above named Respondents to appear either in person or through Pleader, or agent failing which the above o.p. will be decided exparte.

Dated this the 20th day of March, 2023.

(Sd/-) Sowmiavathy, Advocate

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Initial Public Offer of equity shares on the main board of the Stock Exchanges in compliance with Chapter II of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended ("**SEBI ICDR Regulations**").

MANKIND PHARMA LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated on July 3, 1991, as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, with the name "Mankind Pharma Private Limited", pursuant to a certificate of incorporation granted by the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana, at New Delhi ("**RoC**"). Pursuant to the conversion of our Company to a public limited company and as approved by our Shareholders pursuant to a special resolution dated July 14, 2005, the name of our Company was changed to "Mankind Pharma Limited" and the RoC issued a fresh certificate of incorporation on April 13, 2006. For details of changes in our name and the Registered Office, see ***"History and Certain Corporate Matters – Brief history of our Company"*** and ***"History and Certain Corporate Matters – Changes in the Registered Office"*** on page 245 of the red herring prospectus of our company dated April 14, 2023 filed with the RoC ("**RHP**").

Registered Office: 208, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi - 110 020, Delhi, India; **Tel:** +91 11 4747 6600; **Corporate Office:** 262, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi - 110 020, Delhi, India; **Tel:** +91 11 4684 6700
Contact Person: Pradeep Chugh, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Tel:** +91 11 4684 6729; **E-mail:** investors@mankindpharma.com; **Website:** www.mankindpharma.com; **Corporate Identity Number:** U74899DL1991PLC044843

(Please scan this QR code to view the Red Herring Prospectus)

OUR PROMOTERS: RAMESH JUNEJA, RAJEEV JUNEJA, SHEETAL ARORA, RAMESH JUNEJA FAMILY TRUST, RAJEEV JUNEJA FAMILY TRUST AND PREM SHEETAL FAMILY TRUST

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF 40,058,844 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF MANKIND PHARMA LIMITED ("OUR COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING TO ₹ [●] MILLION, COMPRISING AN OFFER FOR SALE BY CERTAIN EXISTING SHAREHOLDERS (THE "OFFER FOR SALE" OR THE "OFFER").

Name of Promoter Selling Shareholder	Number of Equity Shares offered	Weighted average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (In ₹)[1]
Ramesh Juneja	Up to 3,705,443 Equity Shares	Negligible
Rajeev Juneja	Up to 3,505,149 Equity Shares	Negligible
Sheetal Arora	Up to 2,804,119 Equity Shares	Negligible

[1] *As certified by Ghosh Khanna & Co LLP, Chartered Accountants by way of their certificate dated April 14, 2023.*

Name of Investor Selling Shareholder	Number of Equity Shares offered	Weighted average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (In ₹)[1]
Cairnhill CIPEF Limited	Up to 17,405,559 Equity Shares	276.34
Cairnhill CGPE Limited	Up to 2,623,863 Equity Shares	276.34
Beige Limited	Up to 9,964,711 Equity Shares	550.44
Link Investment Trust	Up to 50,000 Equity Shares	550.44

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations
QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Offer

PRICE BAND: ₹1,026 TO ₹1,080 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1 EACH.
THE FLOOR PRICE IS 1026 TIMES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 1080 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.
BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 13 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 13 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

In accordance with the recommendation of Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated April 18, 2023, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the 'Basis for the Offer Price' section of the RHP vis-a-vis the WACA of primary and secondary transaction(s), as applicable, disclosed in 'Basis for the Offer Price' section on pages 140-151 of the RHP.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

1. Dependence on Third Party Manufacturers: We depend on third-party manufacturers for some of our finished formulations and approximately 25% of our total revenues were from products manufactured through third-party manufacturing arrangements for the past three financial years and nine months ended December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2022.
2. Concentration Risk: As of December 31, 2022, 18 of our 25 manufacturing facilities were located in Himachal Pradesh. We have two API manufacturing facilities located in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, which are operated through our subsidiaries, JPR Labs Private Limited and Shree Jee Laboratory Private Limited.
3. Raw Material Import Risk: We depend on third-party suppliers for supply of certain raw materials and approximately 9% of our raw materials were directly imported during the nine months ended December 31, 2022, of which approximately 6% was directly imported from China.
4. Financial Risk: Our EBITDA margin, PAT margin and Return on Capital Employed (not annualized) has decreased from 28.30%, 20.81%, 25.08% during the nine months ended December 31, 2021, respectively, to 22.30%, 15.17% and 16.58% during the nine months ended December 31, 2022, respectively.
5. Dependence on Domestic Market: We are heavily focused on the Indian market and approximately 97% of our revenue from operations is from India for the past three Financial Years and nine months ended December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2022. Significant portion of our domestic sales is from certain therapeutic areas, such as anti-infectives, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal.
6. Regulatory Risk: We operate in a highly regulated industry and our operations include development, testing and research, which may lead to restrictions on marketing practices, compliance with product quality standards, manufacturing processes stipulated by regulators and price controls as levied on certain products by government.
7. Weighted average cost of acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in past one year and from one year to past three years preceding the date of the RHP:

Period	Weighted average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)	Cap price is 'X' times the weighted average cost of acquisition	Range of acquisition price: Lowest Price - Highest Price (in ₹)
Past 1 year	977.18*	1.11	977.18#
From 1 year to Past 3 years	NIL	NIL	NIL

**Cairnhill CIPEF Limited and Cairnhill CGPE Limited have transferred total 16,023,538 Equity Shares at price of ₹ 977.18 per Equity Share on April 6, 2023 to Hema CIPEF (I) Limited and Hema CGPE (I) Limited which at the time of entering into the share purchase agreement dated March 31, 2023 were affiliates of Cairnhill CIPEF Limited and Cairnhill CGPE Limited.*
#Excluding transfer by way of gift as no consideration was paid.

8. Weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") compared to Floor Price and Cap Price:

Past transactions	WACA per Equity Share (in ₹)	Floor Price (i.e. ₹ 1,026)	Cap Price (i.e. ₹ 1,080)
WACA for primary /secondary issue during 18 months and WACA of primary issuance during 3 years prior to RHP, exceeding 5% of the pre-issue capital	NA	NA	NA
WACA of secondary transactions during 3 years prior to RHP, not exceeding 5% of the pre-issue capital	977.18	1.05 times	1.11 times

9. The five Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 84 public offers in the past three Financial Years, out of which 29 offers closed below the IPO price on the listing date.

Name of the BRLMs	Total public issues	Issues closed below IPO price on listing date
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited*	17	2
Axis Capital Limited*	19	8
IIFL Securities Limited*	23	7
Jefferies India Private Limited*	0	0
J. P. Morgan India Private Limited*	0	0
Common issues of above BRLMs	25	12
Total	84	29

**Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs*

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY
BID/OFFER CLOSES ON : THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023*

** UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5.00 p.m. on the Bid/ Offer Closing Date.*

ASBA# Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account, For further details, check section on ASBA.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non Institutional Investor applying for amount upto ₹ 5,00,000/-, applying through Registered Brokers, DPs and RTAs. UPI Bidder also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021, read with press release dated September 17, 2021.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except anchor investors. UPI may be availed by UPI Bidders. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section ***"Offer Procedure"*** beginning on page 527 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("**AIBI**") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum-application forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("**BSE**") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**NSE**", and together with BSE, the "**Stock Exchanges**") and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. RIBs Bidding using the UPI mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited have been appointed as Sponsor Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For offer related queries, please contact the Book Running Lead Managers (**"BRLMs"**) on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail Id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period shall be extended for at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of *force majeure*, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company and the Selling Shareholders, may in consultation with the BRLMs, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band, and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges by issuing a press release and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Members of the Syndicate and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank(s).

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended (the **"SCRR"**), read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not more than 50% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to QIBs (the **"QIB Portion"**), provided that our Company and the Selling Shareholders, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors and the basis of such allocation will be on a discretionary basis by our Company and the Selling Shareholders, in consultation with the BRLMs, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations (the **"Anchor Investor Portion"**), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the price at which allocation is made to Anchor Investors (**"Anchor Investor Allocation Price"**). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to NIIs (**"Non-Institutional Category"**) of which one-third of the Non-Institutional Category shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 200,000 and up to ₹ 1,000,000 and two-thirds of the Non-Institutional Category shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 1,000,000 and under-subscription in either of these two sub-categories of Non-Institutional Category may be allocated to Bidders in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Category in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 35% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to **RIIs** (**"Retail Category"**), in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (except Anchor Investors) shall mandatorily participate in this Offer only through the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (**"ASBA"**) process and shall provide details of their respective bank account (including UPI ID (defined hereinafter) in case of UPI Bidders (defined hereinafter)) in which the Bid Amount will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks (**"SCSBs"**) or the Sponsor Bank(s), as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see ***"Offer Procedure"*** beginning on page 527 of the RHP.

Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIBs bidding through the UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIBs bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders'/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021, read with press release dated September 17, 2021.

Contents of the Memorandum of Association of our Company as regards its objects: For information on the main objects of our Company, please see the section ***"History and Certain Corporate Matters"*** on page 245 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section entitled ***"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"*** on page 563 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of our Company: Limited by shares

Amount of share capital of our Company and Capital structure: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹ 413,500,000 divided into 413,500,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 1 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up equity share capital of our Company is ₹ 400,588,440 divided into 400,588,440 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 1 each. For details, please see the section ***"Capital Structure"*** beginning on page 114 of the RHP.

Names of signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: The names of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company are Ramesh Juneja and Greesh Juneja. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company, please see the section ***"Capital Structure"*** beginning on page 114 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received in-principle approvals from BSE and NSE for listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters each dated November 2, 2022. For the purposes of the Offer, National Stock Exchange of India Limited shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of the RHP and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the RHP up to the Bid /Offer Closing Date, see ***"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"*** beginning on page 563 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 500 and 501 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

Disclaimer Clause of NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 504 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

Disclaimer Clause of BSE : It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 503 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

General Risk: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in this Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in this Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of the Issuer and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares have not been recommended or approved by SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to ***"Risk Factors"*** beginning on page 44 of the RHP.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS					REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER	Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited 1st Floor, 27 BKC, Plot No. 27, 'G' Block, Bandra Kurla Complex , Bandra (East) Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4336 0000 **E-mail:** mankindpharma.ipo@kotak.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** kmccredressal@kotak.com **Website:** https://investmentbank.kotak.com **Contact Person:** Ganesh Rane **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000008704	**Axis Capital Limited** 1st Floor, Axis House, C-2, Wadia International Centre, P.B. Marg , Worli Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** + 91 22 4325 2183 **E-mail:** mankindpharma.ipo@axiscap.in **Investor Grievance E-mail:** complaints@axiscap.in **Website:** www.axiscapital.co.in **Contact Person:** Jigar Jain/Akash Aggarwal **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000012029	**IIFL Securities Limited** 10th Floor, IIFL Centre, Kamala City, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West) Mumbai - 400 013, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4646 4728 **E-mail:** mankind.ipo@iiflcap.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** ig.ib@iiflcap.com **Website:** www.iiflcap.com **Contact Person:** Pinkesh Soni/ Pawan Kumar Jain **SEBI Registration Number:** INM000010940	**Jefferies India Private Limited** 42/43, 2 North Avenue, Maker Maxity Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Bandra (East) Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4356 6000 **E-mail:** Mankindpharma.ipo@jefferies.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** jipl.grievance@jefferies.com **Website:** www. Jefferies.com **Contact Person:** Suhani Bhareja **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000011443	**J.P. Morgan India Private Limited** J.P. Morgan Tower, Off CST Road, Kalina Santacruz East Mumbai - 400098, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6157 3000 **E-mail:** mankind_IPO@jpmorgan.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** investorsmb.jpmipl@jpmorgan.com **Website:** www.jpmipl.com **Contact Person:** Nidhi Wangnoo/Govind Khetan **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000002970	**KFin Technologies Limited** Selenium, Tower B, Plot No. 31 and 32 Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Rangareddi - 500 032, Telangana, India **Tel:** +91 40 6716 2222 **E-mail:** mankind.ipo@kfintech.com **Website:** www.kfintech.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** einward.ris@kfintech.com **Contact Person:** M Murali Krishna **SEBI Registration No:** INR000000221	**Pradeep Chugh** 262, Okhla Industrial Estate Phase-III New Delhi 110 020, Delhi, India **Tel:** +91 11 4684 6729 **E-mail:** investors@mankindpharma.com Investors may contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related grievances including non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer-related queries and for redressal of complaints, investors may also write to the BRLMs.

AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the ***"Risk Factors"*** beginning on page 44 of the RHP, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP shall be available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the **BRLMs**, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Axis Capital Limited, IIFL Securities Limited, Jefferies India Private Limited and J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.iiflcap.com, www.jefferies.com and www.jpmipl.com, respectively and on the websites of BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid cum Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of **MANKIND PHARMA LIMITED, Tel:** +91 11 4747 6600; **BRLMs : Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4336 0000; **Axis Capital Limited, Tel:** + 91 22 4325 2183; **IIFL Securities Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4646 4728; **Jefferies India Private Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4356 6000 **and J.P. Morgan India Private Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6157 3000 and **Syndicate Member : Kotak Securities Limited, Tel.:** +91 22 6218 5410 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Axis Securities Limited, Anand Share Consultancy, ANS Pvt Limited, Ashwani Dandia & Co, Centrum Broking Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited, G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, HDFC Securities, ICICI Securities Limited, JM Financial Services Limited, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited, Jhaveri Securities, Keynote Capitals Limited, Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Motilal Oswal Securities Limited, Marwadi Shares & Finance, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Limited, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Ltd, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, RKSV Securities India Private Ltd, RR Equity Brokers Private Limited, SBIcap Securities Limited, ShareKhan Limited, SMC Global Securities Ltd, Tanna Financial Services and Yes Securities (India) Limited

Escrow Collection Bank : Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. **Public Offer Account Bank and Refund Bank:** HDFC Bank Limited. **Sponsor Banks :** Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited. **UPI:** UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI Mechanism.

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For **MANKIND PHARMA LIMITED**
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Pradeep Chugh
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: April 24, 2023

MANKIND PHARMA LIMITED (the "**Company**") is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with RoC on April 15, 2023. The RHP shall be available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and is available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Axis Capital Limited, IIFL Securities Limited, Jefferies India Private Limited and J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.iiflcap.com, www.jefferies.com and www.jpmipl.com, respectively. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled ***"Risk Factors"*** on page 44 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision.

The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**U.S. Securities Act**") and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) in the United States only to persons that are reasonably believed to be "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A) pursuant to Section 4(a) of the U.S. Securities Act, and (ii) outside the United States in "offshore transactions" as defined in and in compliance with Regulation S and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur. There will be no public offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

INBRIEF

BJP to take up two-day special campaign

The BJP is taking up a two-day special campaign (Vishesha Maha Prachar Abhiyan) in all the 224 Assembly constituencies from Tuesday. The campaign involves door-to-door visits by the party workers to create awareness among people about the achievements of the BJP government at the Centre and the State besides roadshows by leaders and public meetings, according to party State president Nalin Kumar Kateel.

HDK discharged from hospital

Former Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who was ill and admitted to a hospital here, was discharged on Monday. According to party sources, he returned to his residence at J.P. Nagar. Mr. Kumaraswamy will resume his campaign on Tuesday at Chamaraja and Varuna Assembly constituencies.

Rahul Gandhi raises issue of unemployment

Participating in an interaction with youths drawn from varied backgrounds in Gadag on Monday and later addressing a public rally in Hanagal town of Haveri district, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi raised pertinent questions concerning the youths including the burning question of unemployment and sought to know from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, what sort of relationship he has with businessman Gautam Adani.

Reason for denial of ticket to Shettar is an internal matter: Amit Shah

The claim that BJP is being controlled by a few influential people, like B.L. Santhosh, is 'frivolous', the Union Home Minister says

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declined to reveal the reason for denial of ticket to former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and said that it had been conveyed to Mr. Shettar.

Addressing a press conference in Hubballi on Monday evening, Mr. Shah termed it an "internal decision" of the party which could not be disclosed before the media. It has already been conveyed to Mr. Shettar and he knows it and it will also be conveyed to the voters, he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah taking part in a roadshow at Gundlupet in Chamarajanagar district on Monday. PTI

On Santhosh

Terming the allegation by Mr. Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi that the State BJP was being controlled by few influential people like B.L. Santhosh as "frivolous", he sought to know who was handling the party when Mr. Savadi was the Deputy Chief Minister.

On the allegation of Lingayats being ill treated by the BJP, he asserted that the party had replaced Lingayat candidates with another Lingayat candidate and it still enjoyed the support of the community.

'No moral right'

Mr. Shah said that the Congress had not given due respect to Lingayat leaders and it had no moral right to speak about the BJP on Lingayat leaders as it "disgraced and harassed" the two Lingayat Chief Ministers it had. "With the entry of two-three Lingayat leaders, the Congress is jumping with joy," he said, adding that people know better and Mr. Shettar would be defeated this time as Hubballi had always been the forte of the BJP. Mr. Shah claimed that the BJP government had resolved the long pending Mahadayi project while the Congress failed to execute it. When asked why the project was yet to start despite the BJP being in power in all the riparian States and at the Centre, he said that whatever he said was on record and declined to take any further question on the issue. Mr. Shah on Monday also held rallies and roadshows in Hassan and Mysuru.

'What is parivarvad?'

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Is giving party ticket to family members of sitting MLAs or former MLAs, MPs not 'parivarvad'? It is not, according to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

During his press conference, Mr. Shah spoke about the 'parivarvad' (dynasty politics) of JD(S) and when asked about BJP giving ticket to family members, Mr. Shah said that in parties like JD(S) even party president's post, MLA, and MP's position were given to family members, whereas in the BJP the party positions were held by different people based on qualification.

On whether giving ticket to a party leader's son, daughter, daughter-in-law, son-in-laws or any other relative would not amount to 'parivarvad', Mr. Shah said he would not like to further debate on the issue and had made his stand clear.

Kharge seeks 150 seats for Congress to avoid 'poaching' by BJP

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge appealed to the people to bring the Congress to power with more than the required number of seats to "avoid poaching of MLAs" and ensure a stable government.

Addressing a press conference in Chikkamagaluru on Monday, Mr. Kharge said the party would require 113 seats to form the government. However, there had been many incidents of "poaching MLAs" which makes them wary.

In other States

"There were incidents of poaching MLAs in Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Goa, and other States. In Karnataka too, the BJP formed the government by taking away our MLAs. We have to be careful. But, if we get 150 seats, we can have a stable government. There will be no question of any leader threatening or blackmailing to leave the party with a group," he said.

Referring to allegations of corruption against the BJP government in the State, Mr. Kharge said the contractors' association had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about 40% commission in government works. Aided institutions and religious institutions also complained of corruption. "But the Prime Minister remained silent about the allegations. If any minor issue came to light in other places, all government agencies would conduct raids and make arrests. In some instances, the tainted leaders joined the BJP and came out clean," he commented.

Further, he said the BJP government at the centre did not give any new projects or a new public sector unit for the State. The PM came here to inaugurate widened roads. "The State got many railway lines, including Kaur-Chikkamagaluru, when the Congress was in power at the Centre," he said.

Mr. Kharge appealed to the voters to support the Congress, considering the party's assurances. If elected, the party would fulfil the four major promises in the first Cabinet meeting itself. The public would get free power for up to 200 units a month under the Gruha Jyothi scheme. Women members of the family get financial assistance under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. Each family will get 10 kg of rice, and unemployed youths will get benefits under Yuva Nidhi, he said. Leaders of the Congress and party candidates were present at the press conference.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge addressing an election campaign in Chikkamagaluru on Monday. PTI

'Chikkamagaluru is lucky for party'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said he started his election campaign in the Chikkamagaluru district because the district was "lucky" for the party.

Mr. Kharge said during Indira Gandhi's election in Chikkamagaluru, he was made in-charge of an area in the Belthangadi Assembly constituency. He camped there for a month and campaigned for the party. "That election later changed the scenario for the party across the country. We could come back to power at the Centre in 1980. Chikkamagaluru is lucky for us. Hence, I am beginning my campaign here," he said.

Eshwarappa says BJP does not want Muslim votes

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa speaking to presspersons at his residence at Vinoba Nagar in Shivamogga on Monday. Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa is seen. SATHISH G.T.

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa has said that there is no need to seek the votes of around 60,000 Muslim people in Shivamogga city for the Assembly elections, scheduled on May 10.

Addressing a gathering of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community near former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's residence at Vinoba Nagar in Shivamogga on Monday, he said: "Let us interact with people of all castes and enquire about the benefits they enjoyed during the BJP rule. Every community has benefited. There are around 60,000 Muslims in the city. We don't want their votes. Of course, there are Muslims, who received our help individually whenever they were in need and who would vote for us. Nationalist Muslims will definitely vote for the BJP."

"Under BJP rule, Hindus were safe. Nobody dared attack Hindus. There is a feeling among the public that they would not be as secure if any non-BJP government came to power," he said. Mr. Yediyurappa appealed to Veerashaiva-Lingayats to support the BJP candidate, and ensure his victory. "The Congress insulted the Lingayat community by removing Veerendra Patil unceremoniously from the post of Chief Minister. We should not forget it," he said.

Participants included BJP candidate S.N. Channabasappa, Shivamogga Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra, and community leaders Dhananjay Sarji and Jyothi Prakash.

I-T officials search premises of ex-Minister

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Income Tax sleuths on Monday searched the premises of former Minister K. Gangadhara Gowda and his son Ranjan G. Gowda, who is president of the Congress unit in Belthangady.

The sleuths searched the houses of the two leaders in Belthangady, and in the nearby Indabettu village. They also searched the premises of Prasanna Education Trust, through which Mr. Gangadhara and Mr. Ranjan run a host of educational institutions.

Mr. Gangadhara, who had served as Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, first got elected from Belthangady in 1978 on Congress-I ticket. He then won on Congress ticket in 1989. He unsuccessfully contested on Congress ticket in 1994 and 1999 Assembly elections, and on JD(S) ticket in 2008.

Mr. Ranjan unsuccessfully contested on BJP ticket in 2013. He resigned as BJP Belthangady block president and joined the Congress in March 2019.

Triangular fight in Shivamogga with BSY and KSE out of electoral politics

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The ruling BJP waited until the last day to announce its candidate for Shivamogga constituency, which often hits the headlines for communal violence. Eventually the saffron party picked S.N. Channabasappa, who once went to jail for his hate speech against former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Once the centre for farmers' struggles and activities of the Dalit organisations, the nature of politics has changed vastly in Shivamogga.

Bigwigs not in poll politics

Significantly, two big leaders hailing from the district, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa have retired from electoral politics. There was speculation that the latter's son K.E. Kanthesh might get BJP ticket, but that did not happen.

This time, the constituency is witnessing a triangular fight. Among the three contestants, representing three major political parties in the State, two are new faces to polls. H.C. Yogesh of the Congress and Channabasappa of the BJP are sitting members of Shivamogga City Corporation.

Ayanur Manjunath, who joined the JD(S) at the last minute, has been elected to all Houses of the legislature. Miffed over not getting ticket, he resigned as BJP MLC to contest for the Shivamogga Assembly seat.

The constituency is spread over 33 wards of Shivamogga City Corporation. In the last two decades, the city has witnessed growth in terms of basic infrastructure and facilities.

Wide roads connect one end to another. Land rates have gone up at a fast pace. The local people give credit to Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Eshwarappa for the improved connectivity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Shivamogga to inaugurate the airport at Sogane, about 8 km from the town, on February 27. Similarly, the residents acknowledge the efforts of Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra in getting railway overbridges sanctioned for the city, besides the introduction of new trains.

No talk of development

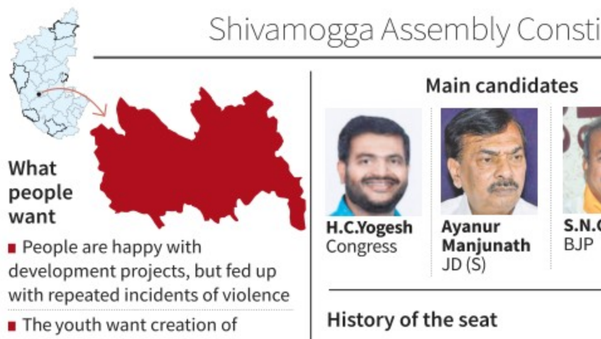
However, urban infrastructure is seldom discussed during the election campaign. The ruling BJP has been raking up past incidents that could potentially divide people along communal lines. Mr. Channabasappa, soon after the party nominated him, visited the residence of Harsha, a Hindutva activist who was murdered last year. Mr. Eshwarappa, addressing a gathering of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community leaders on April 24, declared that the BJP did not want votes of Muslims.

Despite retirement, Mr. Yediyurappa still holds a formidable influence in the district. The BJP has nurtured the constituency for the last four decades. It has won six times since 1983, while the Congress has managed to win only twice. In the last election in 2018, Mr. Eshwarappa secured 60.36% of the votes polled. How the party performs in his absence is being watched keenly.

The JD(S) and the Congress candidates are making efforts to garner the support of their traditional vote banks. Mr. Manjunath has been talking of law and order in the city. Even after spending decades in the BJP before joining the JD (S), he blames that party for repeated incidents of communal violence here. Former Congress MLA Prasanna Kumar joined the JD (S) after he was denied party ticket. Mr. Yogesh of the Congress is banking on the party's legacy and its promises to the public ahead of elections.

All three Lingayats

Interestingly, all three major candidates are Lingayats, an influential community in the constituency. In the last elections, the community stood by the BJP, apparently with the hope of seeing Mr. Yediyurappa as the Chief Minister again.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	K.S.Eshwarappa BJP	1,04,207 60.36%	Prasanna Kuma Congress	57,920 33.61%	H.N.Niranjan JD (S)	5,796 3.36%
2013	Prasanna Kumar Congress	39,355 28.18%	S.Rudre Gowda KJP	39,077 27.98%	K.S.Eshwarappa BJP	33,462 23.96%

INBRIEF

12-day Manjeera Kumbh Mela begins at Raghavapur

Manjeera Kumbh Mela commenced at Raghavapur in Nyalakal mandal of Sangareddy district on Monday. Collector A. Sharath and Panchavati seer Kashinath Baba inaugurated the 12-day event by offering special puja by the river Manjeera.

Many women from neighbouring villages arrived and offered Bonalu to Manjeera. Several seers including Rajashekhar Shiva Yogi Swamy from Bidar in Karnataka, Sangram Maharaj from Kondapur, Shankar Bharat Maharaj participated.

Pioneer of Indian circus, Gemini Sankaran, no more

Moorkoth Vengakandi Sankaran, also known as Gemini Sankaran, 99, a pioneer of Indian circus, passed away at a private hospital in Kannur on Sunday. He was suffering from age-related issues. He was prominent among those who brought the Indian circus to the world's attention. He owned circus companies, including Gemini, Jumbo and Great Royal Circus. Recognising his contribution to the circus, the Central government gave him a lifetime achievement award.

TTD cautions devotees against fake websites

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which is all set to release the online quota of ₹300 Special Entry Darshan (SED) tickets for May and June on Tuesday, has cautioned devotees not to fall prey to fake websites. The temple trust board has appealed to the devotees to book the tickets only on its official https://tirupatibalaji.ap.gov.in website or official mobile app "TTDevasthanams". The notification comes in the back drop of filing a case against a fake website.

PM Modi sets the tone for BJP's poll battle in Kerala

He makes frontal attack on both the Left Democratic Front and the United Democratic Front; the party will make inroads in Kerala like it did in north-eastern States, he tells a youth conclave

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the tone for the electoral battle of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Kerala by making a frontal attack on both the Left Democratic Front and the United Democratic Front in the State.

Speaking at Yuvam 2023, a youth conclave organised by the party in Kochi, Mr. Modi said some were busy smuggling gold to the country even as the BJP government at the Centre was exporting Ayurvedic drugs and such products from Kerala.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with the audience at the youth conclave, Yuvam 2023, in Kochi on Monday. H. VIBHU

The youth of the State were desperate to free the State from the two ideologies that had been dominating the political scape for decades. While one ideology placed the political party over the interests of the State, the other was placing the interest of a family over the interests of the State. The youth of Kerala, who have realised that both ideologies were playing with their future, would renounce both ideologies, Mr. Modi said.

Referring to the electoral victory of the BJP in north-eastern States and Goa, Mr. Modi exuded confidence that the party would be able to make inroads in Kerala too.

Listing out achievements of the BJP government at the Centre, Mr. Modi wanted the youth to take up the leadership mantle. The party brought on stage a few youth achievers, including actors Aparna Balamurali and Navya Nair, Anil Antony, actor Unni Mukundan, Yuva Morcha leader Tejasvi Surya and Vijay Yesudas.

Governors should not sit over Bills: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sent a strong message that Governors should return Bills that they do not agree to "as soon as possible" and not sit over them, making State Legislative Assemblies wait indefinitely.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud referred to the first proviso to Article 200 of the Constitution, which mandates that Governors should not dally over Bills sent to them for assent after they had been passed by Legislative Assemblies.

The observation is part of a judicial order of the court in a petition filed by the State of Telangana complaining that Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has kept pending several important Bills sent to her for assent in September 2022.

Article 200

"Your Lordships must intervene and decide once and for all... This is seen in 'Opposition States'. Legislatures are at the mercy of the Governors... Article 200 says Governors cannot sit over the Bills...", said senior advocate Dushyant Dave, for Telangana.

The court agreed that the proviso to Article 200 clearly mandates that Governors should "as soon as possible" return Bills, other than Money Bills, for reconsideration by the House with a note that the proposed law should be reconsidered.

"The phrase 'as soon as possible' has a significant content and must be borne in mind by constitutional authorities," the Bench noted in the order.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the observation in the order was not necessary, and it was not better to "generalise".

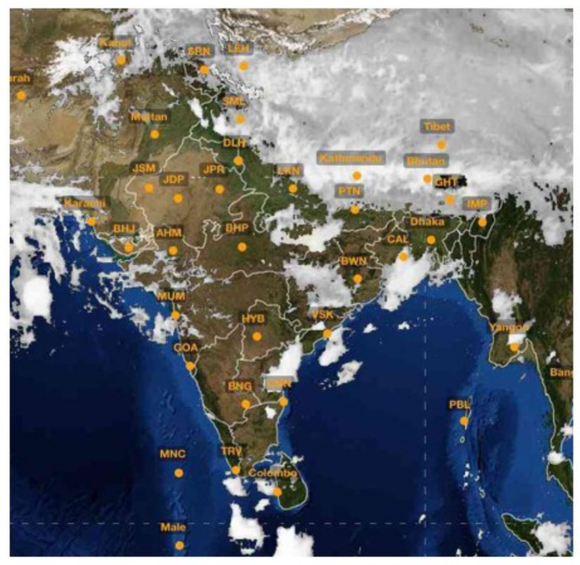
He referred to a communication from Governor Ms. Soundararajan's office on Sunday, which updated that there were no Bills pending with her.

Mr. Mehta said the court's observation in the order concerning Article 200 would give an impression that there was no "constitutional compliance" on the part of the Telangana Governor.

Chief Justice Chandrachud said the observation does not point to anyone, but the court had only generally stated the law.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, interior Karnataka, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.4	20.0	Kozhikode	—	35.9	26.9
Ahmedabad	—	39.7	23.1	Kurnool	—	38.9	26.9
Aizawl	13	32.0	14.5	Lucknow	5	31.4	20.0
Allahabad	—	35.8	21.0	Madurai	7	38.0	25.0
Bengaluru	—	34.0	22.5	Mangaluru	—	34.6	24.5
Bhopal	—	—	18.5	Mumbai	—	32.7	24.0
Bhubaneswar	—	35.2	23.5	Mysuru	—	36.0	26.0
Chandigarh	—	34.4	18.4	New Delhi	—	34.5	19.0
Chennai	—	35.7	27.6	Patna	—	32.7	21.2
Coimbatore	—	36.9	24.6	Port Blair	—	33.3	26.7
Dehradun	—	30.6	16.8	Puducherry	—	35.7	25.2
Gangtok	0.2	20.5	11.1	Pune	—	37.3	22.1
Goa	—	34.1	23.6	Raipur	14	34.0	21.0
Guwahati	26	31.5	18.0	Ranchi	—	30.3	19.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	21.0	Shillong	10	22.2	11.8
Hyderabad	—	36.0	23.2	Shimla	—	20.7	11.4
Imphal	13	30.9	15.5	Srinagar	—	25.6	5.1
Jaipur	2	33.4	18.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.5	27.0
Kochi	—	32.8	26.6	Tiruchi	0.8	37.9	25.0
Kohima	2	27.0	17.8	Vijayawada	—	34.8	27.0
Kolkata	—	32.5	24.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	5	.22	125	148	
Bengaluru	9	.51	.75	26	61	
Chennai	2	.54	.95	54	50	
Delhi	.28	125	.39	184	232	
Hyderabad	.16	.11	.39	49	91	
Kolkata	.17	.16	.17	50	55	
Lucknow	9	.36	.37	70	97	
Mumbai	6	.27	114	42	54	
Pune	—	.28	.67	66	66	
Visakhapatnam	.16	.31	.29	56	76	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 337 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Countdown begins

Festivities for the famed Thrissur Pooram in Kerala began with the 'Kodiyettam' ceremony (flag hoisting) at the Paramekkavu temple on Monday. The Pooram will be held on April 30. K.K. NAJEEB

YSRTP chief Sharmila booked for assault on police officers

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) president Y.S. Sharmila was booked by the Banjara Hills police in Hyderabad on Monday, for allegedly assaulting a female police constable and manhandling other officers. The police officers were deployed near Ms. Sharmila's house to restrain her from proceeding to the Special Investigation Team's office, which is probing the TSPSC question paper leak case.

Ms. Sharmila, outside her Lotus Pond residence here, was starting out when the police officers objected to her plan citing law and order issue.

Questioning the officers on why she was being restrained, she allegedly slapped a female constable, and pushed and argued with other officers who tried forcing her into the SUV.

Caught on camera: YSRTP chief Y.S. Sharmila arguing with a police constable in Hyderabad on Monday. ANI

Following this, Ms. Sharmila was taken to the nearby police station.

The police did not allow Ms. Sharmila's mother Y.S. Vijayalakshmi to meet her. In similar circumstances to the scenes witnessed in the forenoon, Ms. Vijayalakshmi too slapped an officer on duty.

Ms. Sharmila and her driver were taken to Gandhi Hospital for medical procedures, and was later in the evening, produced before a magistrate at Nampally court. An order on the further proceedings is awaited.

Judge recuses from hearing appeals in Lavalin case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge C.T. Ravikumar recused himself from hearing the appeals against the discharge of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the SNC-Lavalin corruption case. Separate appeals were filed by the CBI and some of the accused, who were not discharged, in 2017. The appeals have seen repeated adjournments since January 2018.

On Monday Justice Ravikumar said he had passed an order in the case during his tenure at the Kerala High Court. The case would now be referred to the CJI for constitution of a new Bench.

Amendment to Factories Act put on hold in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday announced his government's decision to put on hold action on the Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2023, which sought to provide flexibility in increasing working hours beyond 8 -hour shifts in factories.

The announcement came a few hours after representatives of trade unions, including the DMK-affiliated Labour Progressive Federation (LPF), opposed the amendment during talks with the Public Works Department (PWD) Minister, E.V. Velu, Micro, Small and Medium Industries Minister T.M. Anbarasan, and Labour Welfare Minister C.V. Ganesan at the Secretariat.

Besides, leaders of the DMK's fraternal parties, including the Dravidar Kazhagam, Congress, MDMK, CPI(M), CPI, VCK, Muslim League, Manithaneya Makkal Katchi and Tamilaga Vazhvurimai Katchi, in a joint memorandum addressed to Mr. Stalin, appealed to him to give up the "anti-labour" amendment.

"Further action on the Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2023, which was adopted in the Assembly has been put on hold based on the views expressed by representatives of trade unions," the Chief Minister said in an official release. He said the Bill was enacted with a view to attract investments and to increase employment opportunities to youth, especially in the southern and northern districts of the State.

"Though there are provisions that safeguard the interests of workers, Ministers held talks with trade union leaders after they expressed their stand on the Bill. They explained the provisions in the Act that provide for a conducive work environment and transport facilities and that only some specific industries would be allowed to implement the Act with conditions and rules," Mr. Stalin said.

Vivekananda Reddy murder: SC sets aside Telangana HC order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday set aside an order of the Telangana High Court on April 18 which had so far protected Lok Sabha MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy from arrest in the murder of former Andhra Pradesh Minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and P.S. Narasimha said the High Court's rather "extraordinary" directions to the CBI to supply the Kadapa MP with a "questionnaire" and also share with him questions and answers in written form at the time of interrogation amounted to "stultifying" the entire investigation into the murder. The Bench further found fault with the High Court's direction that Mr. Avinash Reddy should "attend" the CBI office between April 19 and April 25 for questioning.

The Bench said the High Court order was both "premature" and would "prejudice" the investigation at this stage when the CBI had to probe several other accused.

Vivekananda Reddy was found stabbed to death at his residence in Pulivendula, Kadapa district, in 2019.

Kerala HC expert panel approves new location for wild tusker

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

A Kerala High Court-appointed five-member expert panel has approved a location to translocate wild tusker Arikompan. The panel on Monday conducted a virtual meeting and approved one of the locations from the list submitted by the State government. The government submitted the list of alternative locations to the committee on Friday.

"The approved list, including the report, will be handed over to the State government on Tuesday. Once the committee approves the new location, the government can translocate Arikompan to the new place without further High Court approval," said a source.

Arikompan

A senior Forest Department official said the department would begin the darting process after receiving direction from the government. "The department will then complete the capturing and translocation of the tusker within two or three days," said the official.

"A special team has already completed all arrangements for the mission, including with regard to the kumki elephants. The Forest Department is closely monitoring the movements of the tusker," said the official.

Meanwhile, another wild tusker, known as Chakkakompan, attacked a house at 301 Colony, near Chinnakkanal, in Idukki on Sunday .

Warless Punjab

The Centre and the State must guard against the revival of separatism

The news, on April 23, of the arrest of Amritpal Singh, a self-appointed campaigner for a separate nation for the Sikhs, was received by the public of Punjab with a sense of relief. He had been on the run for weeks, and now faces charges under the National Security Act (NSA) as well as several first information reports. He has turned out to be a cipher – neither he nor his cause of Khalistan appears to have any significant support among Sikhs. The secessionist has been shifted to Dibrugarh jail in Assam, over 2,000 kilometres away from Punjab to avoid any potential turmoil. Taking over as the head, last year, of 'Waris Punjab De', a social organisation established by the late actor-turned-activist Deep Sidhu, Mr. Amritpal's rise to controversy and infamy was as intriguing as it was quick. He styled himself after Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the militant leader who was killed in 1984 after many years of bloodshed in the State. In February, Mr. Amritpal led a mob that had stormed a police station with swords and guns to free compatriots from custody, showing the State police and the government in a bad light. But then it was not entirely surprising. For months, he along with his supporters, flaunting swords, guns and sharp weapons, had moved across Punjab. The question still lingers as to how that was being allowed in Punjab, which has lived through an era of bloody secessionism through the 1980s and 1990s.

Though he comes across as self-styled, the Khalistan propagandist appears to have supporters and handlers within and outside India. The State of Punjab is on the border with Pakistan, that has sought to instigate a section of the population into violence for decades. The campaign for Khalistan is active among the Sikh diaspora too. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the State is now patting itself on the back for the arrest, but the situation should not have reached this point. Even the police operation to nab him turned out to be an embarrassment, as he managed to flee and remain on the loose. Though the instigator is now behind bars, his call for violence and brazen communalism, which went on with impunity for several months, triggered memories of the polarisation between Hindus and Sikhs caused by separatist terrorism that had pulverised Punjab for long. The ripple effects were felt even in other countries. The Centre and the State, under the Bharatiya Janata Party and AAP, respectively, should work closely to get their administrative actions and political messaging correct and effective to keep Punjab peaceful and insulated from the meaningless lure of secessionism.

Batting for borrowers

Penal levy on loan defaulters should not be usurious

The Reserve Bank of India's recent draft circular on penal charges on loan accounts is a welcome move that should give respite to individual borrowers. The RBI has emphasised that it wants to ensure that lenders do not seek to unduly profit from borrowers' defaults in servicing their loans even as it allows the credit provider to reprice the loan in case a borrower's 'credit risk profile' has changed. The central bank's draft guidelines on 'Fair Lending Practice' are aimed at obviating a practice where lenders have hitherto levied a penal interest over and above the contracted rate of interest when borrowers delay repayment or default. Observing that the regulatory intent of a penal levy was solely to foster credit discipline among borrowers through a negative incentive, the RBI noted that lenders, however, had in practice turned the penal interest into a revenue enhancement tool. Supervisory reviews had found that some entities were in fact charging 'excessive' rates of penal interest, leading to hardship to the borrowers and disputes. Lenders had also, in certain cases, been capitalising the penal interest, thereby increasing the principal amount that the borrower would ultimately have to repay. The banking regulator has now emphatically laid down that penal charges should be recovered separately and must not be added either to the principal outstanding or the rate of interest charged on the loan. Lenders could, however, still follow the normal process for compounding the outstanding primary interest, it clarified.

The RBI's decision to step in to ensure a fair and transparent approach to credit pricing has to be seen in the context of the sharp uptick in retail lending in recent years. While industry's share of outstanding bank credit had shrunk to about 24% as of February 2023, from over 43% in 2014-15, the omnibus category of personal loans had surged to 30%, from just 19% eight years ago, making it the largest credit category. The central bank has made clear to lenders that while it gives them the freedom to set the quantum of penal charges proportional to the default or non-compliance with the terms of the loan contract beyond a preset threshold, the threshold itself should not be discriminatory within a specified loan or product category. And the penal charges so levied on individual borrowers cannot be at a rate higher than a similar charge applicable to corporate borrowers. Crucially, the penal charge must be communicated upfront when finalising every loan and unfailingly reiterated to the borrower in every subsequent reminder for loan repayments. Small borrowers are sure to heave a sigh of relief as the RBI has made clear it will not brook any usury.

Pending Bills, the issue of gubernatorial inaction

P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha

The Tamil Nadu Governor was again in the news recently when the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution urging the President of India, among other things, to fix a timeline for assent to be given to Bills passed by the Assembly. The immediate provocation for the resolution was the Governor's public statement, on April 6, where he implied that if the Bill passed by the legislature transgresses constitutional limits, then it is the Governor's responsibility not to give assent. Several Bills passed by the Assembly have been pending as the Governor has not made any decision.

Relevant Articles

Passing a resolution by the Assembly, requesting the President of India to issue directions to the Governor to ensure that he functions in accordance with the Constitution is a new constitutional development. Article 355 of the Constitution says that it shall be the duty of the Union to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. The general meaning and purpose of the Article was explained by B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly: to provide justification for the "invasion of the provincial field" which the Union government may have to do. But the Constitution is a dynamic document whose concepts and doctrines have been interpreted and reinterpreted and also expanded by courts from time to time to meet the changing needs of society.

Although this Article was meant to provide justification for central intervention in the States, its scope and range needs to be widened. The Constitution requires the Governor to act when a Bill is passed by the Assembly and present it to him as per the options given in Article 200. If he does not act in accordance with the Constitution and sits on the Bills indefinitely, he is creating a situation where governance of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with constitutional provisions. In such a situation, the government of the State has a constitutional duty to invoke Article 355 and inform the President about it, and request her to give suitable instructions to the Governor to ensure that the government is carried on in accordance with the Constitution. In that view of the matter, a resolution by the Assembly should be considered legitimate action.

Article 200 provides options to the Governor when a Bill is presented to him after being passed by the legislature. These options are: to give assent; to withhold assent; to send it back to the Assembly to reconsider it; or to send the Bill to the President for his consideration. In case the Assembly reconsiders the Bill as per the request of the Governor under the third option, he has to give assent even if the Assembly passes it again without accepting any of the suggestions of the Governor. It is only logical to think that when the Constitution gives certain options to the Governor he is required to exercise one of them. Since sitting on a Bill passed by the Assembly is not an option given by the Constitution, the Governor, by doing so, is only acting against constitutional direction. A judicial pronouncement on this matter is needed to eliminate the confusion.

> With the issue of indecision by the Governor on passed Bills agitating some States, there is basis for a government to challenge this inaction in a court of law

In the United Kingdom

As regards the option of withholding assent, a plain reading of Article 200 suggests that, theoretically, the Governor can do so. But the question is whether the Governor should withhold assent to a Bill passed by the legislature. To answer this question, we may usefully turn our attention to the practice followed in the United Kingdom, whose model of government was adopted by our Constitution. D.D. Basu, in his commentaries on the Constitution, says: "the position of the Governor in this respect is that of the sovereign in England. In theory the sovereign can refuse to give his assent but this right has not been exercised since the reign of Queen Anne. The veto could now only be exercised on ministerial advice and no government would veto Bills for which it was responsible. Refusal of royal assent on the ground that the monarch strongly disapproved of a Bill or that it was intensely controversial would be unconstitutional."

So, the question of crucial importance is whether under Article 200, the Governor can withhold his assent to a Bill in exercise of his discretionary powers. Or, whether he can do so only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. Under Article 154 of the Constitution, the Governor can exercise his executive powers only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. So, there is a view that the Governor can withhold assent to a Bill only on ministerial advice. But some experts ask as to why the Council of Ministers should advise the Governor to withhold assent after the Bill has been passed by the Assembly. If the government did not want to proceed with the Bill, it could withdraw it at any stage of consideration by the Assembly. Similarly, if the government wanted to repeal it after it becomes an Act, it could have it repealed by the House.

Of course, the government can advise the Governor to withhold assent if it has second thoughts on the Bill after it has been passed – this seems to be the position in the U.K. where the sovereign refuses assent only on ministerial advice. However, it seems that under the Indian Constitution, the exercise of the power vested in the Governor to withhold assent may not be confined to one situation, namely, where the Council of Ministers advise the Governor to do so.

But the larger question is why a Governor should be allowed to withhold assent when the Bill is passed by the Assembly. A Bill is brought before the Assembly when there is some urgency about a legislation. It may be a part of the policy of the elected government which is responsible to the people. When such a Bill is passed, what authority does a Governor who is an appointee of the Union government have to reject it? Under the constitutional scheme, the Governor is only a constitutional head and has no real powers. Then, how can such a Governor veto a legislative measure brought by the government and passed by the Assembly? Withholding assent means the death of that Bill. Thus, the Governor can with one stroke of the pen completely negate the will of the legislature, and thereby negate the will of the people. The Constitution cannot be assumed to be permitting the Governor to do that. Only the judiciary can set it right by way of a clear enunciation of the law.

Issue of justiciability

Finally, it is necessary to look at the question of justiciability of the whole issue of assent by the Governor. D.D. Basu, quoting judgments of the Supreme Court, says that it is not justiciable. One of the judgments is *Purushothaman Namboothiri vs State of Kerala* (1962). The issue that was decided in this case was that a Bill which is pending with the Governor does not lapse on the dissolution of the Assembly. But this judgment does not deal with the justiciability of the process of assent. Similarly, *Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Ltd. And ... vs State Of Bihar And Others* (1983) deals with the power of the Governor to reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President. The Court had held that a Governor reserves a Bill for the consideration of the President in exercise of his discretion. The Court cannot go into the question of whether it was necessary for the Governor to reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President; thus, this case too does not deal with the justiciability of assent. The issue that is agitating State governments is the non-decision/indecision on the part of the Governor on a Bill passed by the Assembly. So, on the question whether the government can challenge the inaction of the Governor in a court of law, the answer seems to be in the affirmative.

The framers of the Constitution would never have imagined that Governors would sit on Bills indefinitely without exercising any of the options given in Article 200. This is a new development which needs new solutions within the framework of the Constitution. So, it falls to the Supreme Court to fix a reasonable time frame for Governors to take a decision on a Bill passed by the Assembly in the larger interest of federalism in the country.

Indian diplomacy and the horses of interest, morality

Vivek Katju

is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer

During her official visit to India, on April 10-12, 2023, Ukraine's First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emine Dzhaparova bluntly put across the dichotomy of India's pursuit of its interests in global affairs – as it always must – and, at the same time, appear to follow the path of morality, as a Vishwa Guru. She tweeted [Emine Dzheppar]: "Happy to visit India that gave birth to many sages, saints and gurus. Today #India wants to be the Vishwaguru, the global teacher and arbiter. In our case we've got a very clear picture: aggressor against innocent victims. Supporting [Ukraine] is the only right choice for true Vishwaguru."

Echoing a wider view

Naturally, Ms. Dzhaparova was forcefully presenting her country's case, but what she said cannot be ignored because what she asserted publicly, is, according to some observers, being articulated discreetly and privately by foreign diplomats. They are pointing to the wide variance between India's desire to be a moral teacher and the cold pursuit of its interests in not condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. All this is meant to push India to criticise Russia openly for its invasion of Ukraine even though India has made its unhappiness with Russia's action against Ukraine already clear, including through Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oft-quoted comment, "This is not an era of war."

India has been accused in the past of contradictions in what it prescribes for the global community and what it pursues itself. When India was severely critical of U.S. actions in Vietnam, and earlier the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt in 1956 against President Gamal Abdel Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal, U.S. and western diplomats often pointed to its relative 'silence' on Soviet operations in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and later Afghanistan. However, there was a basic difference between the dialectic of Indian discourse on foreign affairs then and what is now being projected as part of the Vishwa Guru project. Then, India's foreign policy principles were rooted in contemporary World Order's principles. Now, the inspiration flows from the wisdom of ancient India, with the claim that its worldwide application would contribute to the welfare of the planet.

> While the strands of thought in Indic intellectual traditions are of value in today's troubled world, it would be unfortunate if dogmatic assertions are made regarding these traditions

The West's stand

India is not the only country which coldly pursues its interests while being critical of others for not adhering to global principles. The serial offender in this respect is the United States. While advocating democracy, it has sided with the most obnoxious dictators. Its (and indeed western Europe's) decades of support for the apartheid regime in South Africa is a shameful and hypocritical record of breaking every norm of the World Order. India's opposition to apartheid and being in the forefront of the decolonisation process flowed from the principles of its freedom movement itself. However, the Indian approach then did not seek to play to any national constituencies, and combative language was seldom, if at all, used especially at senior political levels. That has now changed. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has led the charge to forcefully point to the contradictions in western prescriptions to the rest of the world in the context of the Ukraine war and the pursuit of its own interests. But his aggressive dismissal of western liberal criticism of the Modi government's policies goes back to 2019. A few months after he became Minister, Mr. Jaishankar famously said in the U.S. that India's reputation was not made by a newspaper in New York. Mr. Jaishankar has gained enormous popularity in the country for his pugnacious statements. It is this that has led him to be declared by a national newspaper to be the third most powerful person in the country, ahead even of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchalak, Mohan Bhagwat.

Some Sangh Parivar intellectuals avoid the use of the word 'Vishwa Guru' in their writings, but assert that ancient Indian heritage can show the path to lead the world out of its present troubles. They lay stress on Indian traditions of spiritual democracy, celebration of diversity, harmony with nature, the framing of development policies keeping the interests of the poorest in mind, and the idea of a world as a family. It can hardly be disputed that these strands of thought were present in Indic intellectual traditions and are of great value to prevent the looming disasters facing the planet. However, there are two issues which cannot be skirted. One: these were not the only ways the world was conceived in Indic thought. For instance, the idea of a lawless world where the brave and powerful prevailed was part of the political idea contained in the term '*matysa nyaya*'; two: how often were these Indic principles applied in reality, for ancient India history was also full of turbulence and violence? Besides, did spiritual democracy extend to the social sphere? Yes, what India can be justly proud of is the continuity of spiritual traditions and the absence of dogma in them. It will be sad if dogmatic assertions are now made regarding these traditions.

It is impossible to straddle the two horses of interest and morality in the diplomatic sphere. Ms. Dzhaparova has publicly pointed out just that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Run ends

The arrest of Amritpal Singh could bring down the curtain on the second, and unsuccessful, attempt at fostering separatism in Punjab. On deeper reflection, it must be understood that the mischief in Punjab is far from over. That informed citizens have distanced themselves from this second attempt at destabilising peace in the border State shows that separatism has no large support. However, ,Amritpal Singh and his 'followers' did succeed in taking the law into their hands when they attacked the Ajnala police station. It is important for the State and central governments to reflect over why and how an anti-social element was able to unite people behind the call for Khalistan years after insurgency in the Punjab was tackled.

Narendra Dani,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Green havens

As an employee of the Lalbagh Botanical Garden in Bengaluru, it was a pleasure to read the article on the importance of botanical gardens (Editorial page, April 22). I wish that people who throng malls and other hangout spots rediscover the magic of botanical gardens.

Abhishek M.R.,
Bengaluru

The article will, hopefully, also turn the spotlight towards existing gardens. In the Government Botanical Garden in Ooty/Udhagamandalam (Ootacamund), for instance, one can see huge piles of garbage, wild growth and a general failure to maintain the plants. Much of this is the result of staff welfare issues since the beginning of March. Tourists and other visitors have a right to experience the sheer delights of Mother nature.

J.W. Prabakar,
Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris

Sachin, at 50

One of the finest batsmen the gentleman's game has ever seen, Sachin Tendulkar has often invited comparisons with stalwarts including cricketing legends such as Don Bradman, Brian Lara and others. Discipline, determination and devotion were what took Sachin to the pinnacle of glory ('Sport' page, April 24).

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in the Opinion page article, "The 'Opposition unity' caution" (April 24, 2023), should be recast as: "She may even prefer to vote for the BJP, *if the BSP*, instead of the SP, is on her ballot representing the united Opposition." The published version had said "*if the BJP*".

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The many benefits of marriage equality

Radhika Piramal

is Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of VIP Industries Ltd.

Last week, the Supreme Court started hearing petitions from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) petitioners seeking same-sex marriage equality. The hearings were widely covered by the media in India because the issue of marriage equality for LGBTQ+ persons is sometimes seen as controversial.

I am a happily married lesbian who chose to legally marry my same-sex partner in the U.K. in 2011 because I did not have the right to marry her in India, even though the institution of marriage is of fundamental importance to Indian society. In India, getting married is one of the highlights of becoming an adult. Remaining single and not being married is frowned upon by the entire family as married couples are generally seen as more accepted and respectable than a non-married couple in our traditional culture.

Therefore, excluding LGBTQ+ persons from marriage excludes us from full benefits of participating in family and community life. It excludes us from acceptance in society. Why is there opposition to two LGBTQ+ persons taking vows in front of family, friends, colleagues and community? Why can we not be recognised as spouses under the law?

Distortion of the union

A common reason given is that marriage is defined as a union between a man and a woman only, so to allow LGBTQ+ persons to marry would somehow distort this union. But I don't see how some LGBTQ+ citizens getting married takes anything away from the millions of marriages of heterosexual couples.

We know by now that same-sex attraction is a natural part of human society, not any crime or illness. The fact is that some people of the same sex fall in love with each other and want to get married. We want to make life-long promises to each other, gain respect and recognition of our families and community, and join the families of our partners as a son-in-law or a daughter-in-law.

LGBTQ+ marriage takes nothing away from those "straight" couples who already enjoy marriage equality, yet it means everything to the lives of those LGBTQ+ couples seeking this fundamental right.

Marriage benefits a couple in tangible and intangible ways. Many people may not appreciate these until they get married. Tangible benefits include the ability to open joint bank accounts, jointly buy or rent a property, jointly own and share financial assets, be recognised as a relative under the Indian Income Tax Act, access a spouse's health and life insurance, and inherit a spouse's assets if one partner dies. These are essential protections which most heterosexual couples take for granted, but they are denied to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Intangible benefits include gaining legitimacy, respect and affection from society and being able to participate fully in all family events. Marriage equality enhances family bonds and encourages unity.

> Same-sex marriage equality will enable the LGBTQ+ community's sense of belonging and will help them gain the acceptance they are seeking in society

Others may wonder, if Indian society is ready for this change? Public opinion has changed considerably in the private sector over the last five years. Human resource (HR) practices of leading companies have progressed a long way since the Supreme Court de-criminalised homosexual acts by striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 2018.

Protecting employees

Efforts to improve diversity and inclusion in the Indian workplace have gathered momentum. Many corporations have applied core HR principles of fairness, equality and non-discrimination to their LGBTQ+ employees and have re-written their equal opportunity and anti-discrimination policies to explicitly protect LGBTQ+ employees from discrimination, bullying and harassment. Some companies extend benefits such as spouse health insurance to same-sex partners of their employees. However, these policies have been challenging to implement with insurance companies as same-sex partners are not legally recognised as spouses.

These inclusive and fair policies have not led to negative consequences or backlash from the majority workforce. In fact, it has been the opposite – inclusive policies which encourage a diverse workforce have resulted in more loyalty and engagement as employees feel they can be their authentic selves at work and still fully belong to their organisation, a feeling they may not get at home.

It is now time for this sense of belonging to be felt at home too, which starts with belonging to the family and being allowed to marry. LGBTQ+ citizens deserve the right to participate in one of society's major institutions. We deserve to be treated equally under the law in our country.

Being allowed to marry will enable our sense of belonging and will help to gain the acceptance we are seeking in society.

Radhika Piramal with her wife, Amanda. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Allies stop push for flexible working hours

The Tamil Nadu government halts further action on the proposed Bill

STATE OF PLAY

D. Suresh Kumar
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On the last day of the Budget session of the Assembly that concluded last week, the M.K. Stalin-led government ignored strong opposition from legislators of multiple parties, including allies, and adopted the Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2023. However, three days later, on Monday evening, when it became apparent that things could get out of hand, Mr. Stalin announced that all further action on the proposed law is being put on hold.

The decision means that workers in factories face no immediate threat of their daily working hours being increased beyond the standard eight hours.

The amendment pushed laboriously by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government sought to exempt "any factory or group or class or description of factories, from any or all of the provisions of Sections 51, 52, 54, 56 or 56" of the Factories Act, 1948.

It sought to enable factories to apply and get exemption from adhering to crucial and basic labour welfare requirement such as not engaging an adult worker beyond nine hours on any working day (Section 54). The exempted factories could enforce "working hour reforms" and "flexible working hours", meaning they could increase the daily working hours to 12 hours.

The reason given to amend the Act was representations from industries for flexible working hours, "citing the number of benefits it could bring to workers, especially

women employees". Neither was the term "flexible working hours" defined in the proposed law, nor was it detailed in what measure the women employees would benefit.

Ironically, the Tamil Nadu government had resorted to this move even while the Union Government was yet to notify the implementation of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. The Code, among other things, seeks to enable States to provide for flexible working hours, including overtime and spread-over hours, inclusive of rest intervals, subject to such conditions and restrictions as applicable to any factory or class of factories. The Code, in fact, would subsume 13 labour enactments, including the Factories Act.

Many of the DMK's allies, who since mid-2021 had been restrained in their reaction on issues such as NEET exemption, custodial torture, liquor prohibition and corruption allegations than in the preceding four years, turned vocal for the first time, demanding recall of the amendment. The labour class constitutes the core vote bank for some of these parties. Therefore, they cannot be seen as aiding their alliance leader to enforce a law, which strangely did not qualify its intent to empower factories with necessary safeguards for workers.

Their resolve became clearer when, at a meeting addressed by three Ministers, the representatives of trade unions, which also included the DMK-affiliated Labour Progressive Front, rejected the amendment and threatened to go on strike on May 12. Trade union representatives said they had not expected this from the government.

Amidst information that leaders of the alliance parties were preparing to meet Mr. Stalin on the issue, the ruling party quickly realised that it would not be able to antagonise them ahead of next year's Lok Sabha polls. The DMK was also cognisant of the damage it could cause to its image of a party that pioneered pro-labour policies such as abolition of hand-pulled cycle rickshaws and setting up of the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board decades ago.

In September 2021, the government had volunteered to amend the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, mandating establishments to provide seating facilities for employees.

Commemorating International Labour Day last year at Napier Park in Chennai, re-christened in 1990 as 'May Day Park' by his late father, M. Karunanidhi, Mr. Stalin had said that the DMK government functions for the uplift of the workers and not merely to greet them on May Day.

"It is a government for the poor, common people and the working class," he said.

By choosing to be flexible in reconsidering the latest policy rather than flexing administrative strength to implement it, Mr. Stalin has ensured that those words continue to fit the bill as another May Day approaches.

Karnataka lags in social measures, rank worsened in recent years

On majority of social indicators, the State's ranking worsened between 2015-16 and 2019-21

DATA POINT

Thanmaya Prakash
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

An analysis of economic, social and environmental indicators of poll-bound Karnataka shows that the State features at the bottom half of many measures and also its performance relatively worsened between 2015-16 and 2019-21. While the State's per capita GDP has improved leaps and bounds over the years, the growth has not translated to better outcomes in educational, health-related and sanitation-related measures. Moreover, the State's relatively better economic performance has come at a cost with Karnataka lagging behind on environment-related indicators.

Table 1 shows Karnataka's rank on social indicators and its actual score in a parameter in 2019-21, 2015-16 and 2005-06. The table lists the change in Karnataka's rank in 2019-21, compared to 2015-16. The top three States in a parameter are also given for comparison. For instance, in Karnataka, 35.4% of children were stunted (low height-for-age) in 2019-21 and ranked 24 out of the 30 States analysed. On this indicator, Karnataka's ranking fell three spots in 2019-21 from 2015-16. In 2005-06, the State's rank was even better – 16 out of the 28 States analysed.

The share of women aged 20-24 years, who married before turning 18, was 21.4% in 2015-16 (ranked 18 of 30), which marginally decreased to 21.3% in 2019-21 (19 of 30). In the share of households with any member covered under a health insurance/financing scheme (%), the State ranked 3 of 28 States in 2005-06; in 2019-21, it ranked 20 of 30. In infant mortality rate, the State's rank worsened from 8 of 30 States in 2015-16 to 13 of 30 in 2019-21. In fact, on majority of the social indicators analysed, the State's ranking worsened in the 2015-16 to 2019-21 period, as can be seen in table 1. A similar slide can be observed between 2005-06 and 2019-21 as well.

However, Karnataka's economic performance has improved vastly in the last two decades. In 1993-94, it was ranked 14 out of 27 States and in 2020-21, it jumped to the fourth spot (behind Goa, Sikkim and Delhi) in per capita net state domestic product (current prices) as shown in **table 3**. In fact, among major States, Karnataka leads the nation in this indicator. However, it is important to note that Karnataka's economic growth may have not equally benefitted the entire State's population and concentrated only in urban areas. For instance, the % of population in the two lowest wealth quintiles was 27.3% in 2015-16, ranked 15 out of 30. In the same year, the head count ratio as per the Multidimensional Poverty Index was 17.3% in the State, ranked 14 of 30.

While the State leads the country in terms of economic performance, it lags behind on environment-related indicators (**table 5**). In terms of hazardous waste generated per capita, the State was ranked 19 out of 28 (18 States had lower waste generation). In terms of fossil fuels consumed per capita, Karnataka ranked 24 of 30 (23 States had lower consumption). Only 87% of industries complied with wastewater treatment norms (ranked 23 of 30).

Among educational indicators, Karnataka features among the bottom-half of the States (**table 6**). In 2018-19, it ranked above 15 of the 30 States on indicators such as enrolment in higher secondary and college-level education. It had a relatively higher dropout rate at the secondary level (ranked 22 of 30). Given the sluggish improvements across socio-economic indicators and high inequality, the State's Human Development Index has not improved much. In the 2019 HDI index, the State was middling with a ranking of 14 among 30 States, though its ranking improved by 6 spots compared to 1990 (**table 2**).

Karnataka report card

The data were sourced from the National Family Health Surveys, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Global Data Lab and the NITI Aayog

Table 1

Indicator	2019-21 Value	2019-21 Karnataka's rank	2019-21 Top major States	Change from 2015-16	2015-16 Value	2015-16 Karnataka's rank	2005-06 Value	2005-06 Karnataka's rank
Women who ever attended school (%)	73	18 of 30	Kerala: 95.5; Himachal: 81; T.N.: 80.4	0	70.7	18 of 30	62.2	18 of 28
Women aged 20-24 years married before 18 years of age (%)	21.3	19 of 30	Himachal: 5.4; Kerala: 6.3; Punjab: 8.7	-1	21.4	18 of 30	41.2	20 of 28
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	25.4	13 of 30	Kerala: 4.4; T.N.: 18.6; West Bengal: 22	-5	26.9	8 of 30	43	14 of 28
Stunted children (low height-for-age) (%)	35.4	24 of 30	Kerala: 23.4; Punjab: 24.5; T.N.: 25	-3	36.2	21 of 30	43.7	16 of 28
Wasted children (low weight-for-height)(%)	19.5	23 of 30	Punjab: 10.6; Haryana: 11.5; Uttarakhand: 13.2	5	26.1	28 of 30	17.6	15 of 28
Underweight children % (low weight-for-age)	32.9	25 of 30	Punjab: 16.9; Kerala: 19.7; Uttarakhand: 21	-3	35.2	22 of 30	37.6	15 of 28
Households with any member having a health insurance (%)	28.1	20 of 30	Rajasthan: 87.8; Chhattisgarh: 71.4; Andhra: 70.2	-7	28.1	13 of 30	10.2	3 of 28
Population that use improved sanitation facility (%)	74.8	17 of 30	Kerala: 98.7; Punjab: 86.6; Haryana: 85	-2	57.8	15 of 30	-	-

Table 2: HDI

2019 Value	2019 Karnataka's rank	2019 Top major States	1990 Value	1990 Karnataka's rank
0.683	14 of 30	Kerala, Punjab, Himachal	0.442	20 of 30

Table 3: Per capita NSDP (current prices)

2020-21 Value	2020-21 Karnataka's rank	2020-21 Top major States	1993-94 Value	1993-94 Karnataka's rank
2,36,451	4 of 27	Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat	7,838	14 of 27

Table 4

Indicator (2018-19)	Value	Karnataka's rank	Top major States
Manufacturing GVA as % of total	15.88	11 of 30	Uttarakhand, Himachal, T.N.
% of manufacturing employment	11.74	12 of 30	Gujarat, Punjab, T.N.

Table 5

Indicator	Value	Karnataka's rank
Hazardous waste generated (per 1,000 population in metric tonnes in 2018)	6.34	19 of 28
Plastic waste generated (Avg. plastic generated per 1,000 population in tonnes, 2018-19)	4.17	25 of 30
Per capita fossil fuel consumption (2018-19)	216	24 of 30
% of industries complying with waste water treatment as per CPCB norms	87.71	23 of 30

Table 6

Indicator (2018-19)	Value	Karnataka's rank	Top major States
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education (18-23 years)	28.8	16 of 30	T.N., Himachal, Uttarakhand
Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio (ANER) in elementary education (Class 1-8)	100	3 of 30	Karnataka, Himachal, Uttarakhand
Average annual dropout rate at secondary level (Class 9-10)	23.43	22 of 30	Himachal, Kerala, Odisha
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher secondary (Class 11-12)	44.4	20 of 30	Himachal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 25, 1973

Supreme Court upholds validity of 24th Amendment

New Delhi, April 24: A special 13-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court to-day unanimously held the constitutional validity of the Constitution (24th Amendment) Act, 1971 – passed by Parliament as a result of the well-known Supreme Court judgment delivered in the Golaknath case in 1967 – seeking to reserve to Parliament the power to abridge or take away fundamental rights by means of a Constitution amendment under Article 368 (dealing with amendment of the Constitution). However, nine of the judges of the Special Bench, namely the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Sikri, Mr. Justice Shelat, Mr. Justice Hedge, Mr. Justice Grover, Mr. Justice Jaganmohan Reddy, Mr. Justice Palekar, Mr. Justice Khanna, Mr. Justice Mukherjee and Mr. Justice Chandrachud held that "Article 368 does not enable Parliament to alter the basic structure of framework of the Constitution". It may be mentioned that what exactly constitutes "the basic structure or framework of the Constitution" has been left open. The Special Bench, by a majority of 9 to 13, has overruled the majority decision of the Golaknath case, which held that Parliament was not competent to abridge or take away fundamental rights by means of a constitutional amendment under Article 368. The Special Bench also unanimously upheld the constitutional validity of Section 2(A) and 2(B) of the Constitution. Section 2(A) deals with the replacement of the "compensation" by the hard "amount" in Article 31(2). According to this, it is not obligatory to make payment of "compensation" just equivalent.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 25, 1923

Beef boycott in Burma

Rangoon, April 24: The methods adopted by the Burmese Women's Association at Kyauktan to stop beef-eating are interesting. It would appear that, at first, members of the Association attempted to bid for slaughter-house licences, but they were warned by the Officer in charge that if they take out licences and then not sell any beef, fresh licences would be issued. Then the members of the Women's Association picketed the bazaar and purchased beef from buyers of beef paying them higher prices. That campaign was carried on for days, ending in the closing of slaughter-house and beef stalls.

From Page One

India braces to evacuate nationals from Sudan

Sources had earlier told *The Hindu* that the Embassy was in contact with all sides in the conflict and was urging them for a ceasefire to ensure speedy evacuation of Indians. A WhatsApp group was created on April 16 to coordinate for safety and possible evacuation.

The process finally began on Id when Saudi Arabian military forces airlifted a few Indian nationals along with citizens of several "brotherly and friendly" countries. India had maintained contact with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the United States, the U.K., and Egypt over the evolving situation on the ground. Mr. Jaishankar, who was on a visit to Latin America, had broken his trip in New York where he discussed Sudan with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. He had earlier spoken to his counterparts from Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

M.P. seeks different site for Kuno cheetahs

While the existing population of cheetahs would remain within the larger Kuno landscape, newer batches of imported cheetahs would be located in Gandhi Sagar and Nauradehi wildlife sanctuaries in M.P. These are reserves that are still being developed to be made suitable for hosting cheetahs.

On Sunday, the KNP witnessed a second cheetah fatality in less than a month as a six-year-old male feline named Uday, translocated from South Africa in February, died. The exact cause of the feline's death has not been identified yet, an official earlier said. The incident is seen as a major setback for the ambitious Project Cheetah, under which 20 felines were translocated to KNP in Sheopur district from Namibia and South Africa in separate batches in September 2022 and February this year. One of the eight Namibian cheetahs, Sasha, aged more than four-and-a-half-years, died of a kidney ailment on March 27.

Another cheetah, named Siyaya, recently gave birth to four cubs in KNP. Besides, cheetah Oban, now renamed Pavan, has strayed out of the KNP multiple times.

Two-States plan

Asked about the space shortage, the M.P. forest official said it was secondary and added that "not just space, we need a lot of logistics". Notably, before the cheetahs were imported, some experts had cautioned that shortage of space was likely to affect the cheetah reintroduction project at the KNP, which has a core area of 748 sq. km and buffer zone of 487 sq. km.

M.P. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) J.S. Chauhan said his department has written a letter to the NTCA, requesting for an alternative place for the cheetahs. "If we start developing our sites like the Gandhi Sagar or the Nauradehi in M.P. as alternate sites, it will take two years and three years, respectively," an official said.

The M.P. forest officials, however, pointed out that it is not a matter about two States. "The Centre has a major role to play. We need a note from the Centre to proceed. We desperately need intervention from the Centre. If they don't take the decision, it will be detrimental to the interest of the cheetah project," a State forest official said.

According to some wildlife experts, a cheetah needs 100 sq. km area for its movement. However, KNP Director Uttam Sharma said, "Nobody exactly knows how much space a cheetah needs given the fact that these felines became extinct here seven decades ago. In fact, we are learning about them after their translocation."

Bhopal-based journalist Deshdeep Saxena, who writes on wildlife and environment, said the international community of cheetah experts and biologists has always questioned this project for its "unscientific approach". There are issues of lack of space and prey for the African cheetahs in KNP, he claimed.

(With inputs from Jacob Koshy in New Delhi)

SC keeping a watch on Lakhimpur Kheri trial

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally said day-to-day hearings in the Lakhimpur Kheri killings case in the sessions court may affect the pace of other pending cases before the trial judge. Appearing before a Bench, advocate Prashant Bhushan said only three of over 200 witnesses have testified so far.

He said that cases involving influential people tend to go on indefinitely in his own experience.

Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish is an accused in the case. The prosecution case is that an SUV allegedly belonging to Ashish's convoy mowed down farmers protesting agricultural laws in a rally in Lakhimpur Kheri district on October 3, 2021.

"Day-to-day hearing may not be possible... It may affect other cases," the Bench said.

"Then let it go to another court... In my experiences such cases with influential people tend to go on and on and meanwhile witnesses either turn hostile or grow old and die," Mr. Bhushan responded.

The Bench said it was keeping a watch on the progress of the trial and posted the case on July 11.

Poonch attackers not traced as terror trail enters 5th day

Official says the attackers used armour-piercing steel bullets, smuggled either from China or Afghanistan, sticky bombs and grenades; a dozen 'overground' workers detained for questioning

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

As the multi-security agency search operation in the Rajouri-Poonch belt entered the fifth day on Monday, terrorists involved in the Poonch terror attack remain untraced amid growing fears that they might manage to migrate to safer locations like the Rajouri attackers, who killed seven civilians at Dangri village on January 1.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that the probe into the Poonch attack indicated the meticulous planning by the attackers, who had high-calibre weapons and were working on well-gathered inputs on the movement of Army vehicles in the area.

The use of armour-piercing steel bullets, either smuggled from Afghanistan or procured from China; sticky bombs and grenades have been established so far.

"A sniper expert seems to be a part of the group of attackers who swooped on the solitary vehicle on April 20 in the Rajouri-Poonch sector. It seems the sniper bullet hit the driver first and was followed by gunfire from other associates from at least two sides. It seems there was little response time to the soldiers on board the vehicle to retaliate," an official said.

Recovery time: Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi meets a survivor of the Poonch terror attack in a hospital in Udhampur. PTI

Decamped with rifles

The militants managed to decamp with the service rifles of the jawans, indicating at the time the attackers had to get close to the vehicle. "A sticky bomb seems to be attached to the fuel tank, as the injured jawans were still inside the truck, to trigger a fire," an official added.

Five soldiers were killed and another was critically injured in the attack that took place around 3 p.m. between Bhata Dhurian and Tota Gali route in the Poonch-Rajouri Sector. The statement of the injured soldier has been recorded by the investigating agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The security agencies on January 1 this year launched a major operation to nab the attackers, who killed seven civilians by attacking a Hindu-majority village of Dangri. However, the security agencies neither arrested anyone nor identified the militant outfit behind the attack officially so far.

Massive crackdown

Meanwhile, the massive crackdown entered its fifth day on Monday, where houses were searchedbetween Bhata Dhurian and Tota Gali, along an eight-kilometre-long thick forest area.

"The houses closer to the Line of Control (LoC) were also searched and the inmates were questioned," official sources said.

Security agencies also identified natural caves, suspected to be used by militants to hide. However, no recovery has been made so far.

50 detained

Around 50 local people, including over one dozen alleged overground workers, have been detained for questioning.

Rajouri-Poonch was declared a zero-militancy region of Jammu and Kashmir before the Centre ended J&K's special constitutional position on August 5, 2019. However, the region became a hotbed of militancy, with growing attacks on security agencies in the past three years. Over one dozen security forces have died in multiple attacks launched by militants in the region, which shares a long LoC with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Around 550 km out of the 740-km LoC are already fenced.

Properties of Hizbul chief's sons attached under UAPA

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday attached the properties of two sons of Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, under provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in Srinagar's Ram Bagh and Budgam's Soibogh areas.

The houses of Shahid Yusuf and Syed Ahmed Shakeel are located in Budgam's Soibugh and Mohalla Ram Bagh, respectively.

As per one NIA notice, the immoveable property-Survey No. 1917/1566, 1567 and 1568 located at Revenue Estate, Nursing Garh, Mohalla Ram Bagh, Srinagar, under the ownership of Syed Ahmad Shakeel stands attached under subsection 33(1) of the UAPA, 1967, the officials said.

Mr. Shakeel was arrested in August 2018 in the 2011 case related to alleged terror funding. A laboratory technician by profession, Mr. Shakeel used to work at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS). He was terminated from service in 2021. Mr. Yusuf was arrested in June 2018 in the same case. He was an employee at the agriculture department and was terminated from his service.

SC seeks report from Calcutta HC on judge giving TV interview

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a report from the Calcutta High Court on whether one of its judges, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, allegedly gave a TV interview about the pending sensational school job-for-bribe case.

"A judge has no business giving an interview in a pending case," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed orally.

The Registrar-General of the High Court has been directed to submit a report by Thursday. The court listed the case for hearing on Friday. On April 17, the top court had stayed the Calcutta High Court's April 13 order directing the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to interrogate Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee and Kuntal Ghosh, an accused in the case, and file a report based on that.

CJI D.Y. Chandrachud

Prior to this, a single judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court of Justice Gangopadhyay had directed the West Bengal Police not to lodge any FIR against CBI and ED officers probing the alleged scam.

The High Court had taken note of the public speech of Mr. Banerjee, nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in which he had purportedly said that Mr. Ghosh was being pressured by central probe agencies to name him in the case.

Court reschedules plea for independent investigation into Atiq Ahmed's murder

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has rescheduled to April 28 the hearing on a petition seeking an independent probe by a body headed by a retired top court judge into the public killings of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in Uttar Pradesh.

On Monday, a Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said the case is one among several being rescheduled for a later date after five judges have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

The court is functioning with a reduced number of judges, and the Benches have been reconstituted to avoid greater pendency.

The petition was mentioned by advocate Vishal Tiwari, who is also the petitioner. Mr. Tiwari has also sought an inquiry into the 183 encounters that have taken place in Uttar Pradesh since 2017.

Atiq Ahmed

On April 15, Ahmad, 60, and Ashraf, who were in handcuffs, were shot dead by three men posing as journalists when they were answering reporters' queries while being escorted by police personnel to a medical college in Prayagraj for a check-up. Two days before that, Atiq's son Asad was killed in a police encounter in Jhansi.

183 encounters

The Uttar Pradesh Police had allegedly gunned down 183 alleged criminals in encounters in the six years of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government, including Asad and his accomplice.

"Issue guidelines/directions to safeguard the rule of law by constituting an independent expert committee under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court justice to inquire into the 183 encounters which had occurred since 2017 as stated by Uttar Pradesh Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) and also to inquire into the police custody murder of Atiq and Ashraf," the petition has said.

SC to set date to hear plea to abolish Collegium

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will give a date for the hearing of a petition seeking the "abolition" of the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

In an urgent mentioning before Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, advocate Mathews Nedumpara said the case had been mentioned multiple times, but the Registry had still not listed it for hearing.

CJI Chandrachud said Justice S.K. Kaul was unwell and a Constitution Bench hearing is currently on.

"Please give a date, it could be before the summer vacations or even after the holidays in July," Mr. Nedumpara urged.

"We will give a date," the Chief Justice assured.

Nuclear liability issues not yet resolved for Jaitapur project: French firm EDF

Suhasini Haidar
PARIS

Two years after the French energy company Electricite de France (EDF) submitted its techno-commercial offer for the construction of six nuclear power reactors in Maharashtra's Jaitapur, talks between Indian and French officials over several issues, including liability, have not resulted in any breakthrough yet.

According to sources in Delhi and Paris, the talks over the high cost of power per unit has also become a major issue in the conclusion of the agreement for the 9,900-MW project, which is the world's biggest nuclear power generation site under consideration at present.

A file photo of the nuclear power project site at Jaitapur.

"The topic [of liability] has been discussed between the French and Indian governments and my understanding is that it is progressing towards convergence. ...this topic would have to be solved before any contract can be signed," an EDF official said in response to a question from *The Hindu*, as part of a presentation to a group of international journalists invited to Paris.

The statement is significant, as in October 2022, the Minister of Space and Atomic Energy, and Minister of State in the PMO, Jitendra Singh, promised an early resolution to all the issues, within months.

"Dr. Jitendra Singh assured the France Minister that the technical, financial and civil nuclear liability issues will be resolved at the earliest by both the sides and well before the scheduled visit of the French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron in early 2023," an official press release stated. On Monday, the Minister's office did not immediately respond to a request to comment on the latest position in the talks.

Mr. Macron put off his visit scheduled for March, and is now expected to visit Delhi in September for the G-20 summit. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to Paris in July, and officials said they were attempting to "speed up" the talks between EDF and the Indian operator Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL).

Sources said India's regulator, the Department of Atomic Energy, as well as NPCIL have not yet signed off on EDF's technical specifications for its European pressurised reactors, and the costing suggested was significantly high.

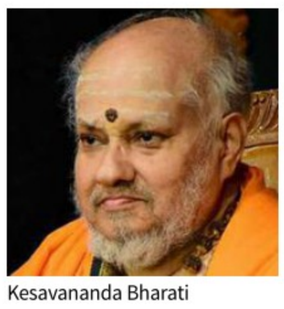
(With inputs from Jacob Koshy in New Delhi)

Demystifying Kesavananda Bharati case, webpage delves deep into history

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday announced that the Supreme Court has created a special webpage for the Kesavananda Bharati case in which a 13-judge Bench, the largest constituted in the court's history, through a wafer-thin majority of 7:6, held that Parliament cannot amend the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution.

The webpage, the CJI said, would host the complete submissions, petitions and judgments in the historic case, also called the Fundamental Rights case. The CJI had recently compared the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution to the "North Star", an unfailing guide which shows the way when the path appears convoluted.



Kesavananda Bharati

The webpage dedicated to the 1973 case has been created in the face of recent criticism from high constitutional authorities that the Basic Structure doctrine diluted parliamentary sovereignty.

The Kesavananda Bharati judgment had cropped up during the government's recent criticism of the collegium system of judicial appointments. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju criticised the striking down of the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act in October 2015.

In the NJAC judgment, the Supreme Court upheld the collegium system and held that the NJAC was an encroachment on judicial independence, a part of the Basic Structure.

The Kesavananda Bharati judgment held that Parliament cannot use its constituent power to alter the essential features of the Constitution. The Basic Structure or framework of the Constitution was its living spirit, holding up the body of its text. Its existence cannot be pinpointed to any particular provision of the text. It was the "soul" of the Constitution.

As an aftermath of the judgment, Justice A.N. Ray, the fourth in line of seniority and who was part of the minority which upheld the unlimited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution, superseded Justices J.M. Shelat, K.S. Hegde and A.N. Grover to become the 14th Chief Justice of India. All three of his colleagues resigned.

A similar supersession followed when Justice H. R. Khanna, after his lone but historic dissent upholding the Fundamental Right to life and personal liberty in the habeas corpus case during the darkest days of Emergency, was overlooked for Chief Justiceship.

India, China hold 'frank and in-depth' talks

The 18th round of talks between senior military commanders was held on the Chinese side of the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point; days ahead of the first visit by the Chinese Defence Minister since the start of crisis, they agreed that peace along the border areas would 'enable progress' in ties

Ananth Krishnan

India and China on Sunday held "frank and in-depth" talks on the two remaining friction areas on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and days ahead of the first visit by the Chinese Defence Minister to New Delhi since the start of the border crisis, agreed that restoring peace along the border areas would "enable progress" in recently strained relations.

The 18th round of talks between senior military commanders since the start of the April 2020 LAC crisis, triggered by China's multiple transgressions and mobilisation of troops, was held on Sunday on the Chinese side of the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point.

"The two sides had a frank and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector so as to restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which will enable progress in bilateral relations. In line with the guidance provided by the State leaders and further to the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers in March 2023, they had an exchange of views in an open and candid manner," said a statement on Monday evening issued in New Delhi.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in Beijing that "according to the important common understanding of the leaders of both countries, the two sides held in-depth exchange of views on expediting the resolution of relevant issues."

No breakthrough yet

The statements suggested no breakthrough as yet on the two remaining friction points in Demchok and Depsang. Both sides have disengaged in four other areas along the LAC, setting up buffer zones in some of them.

The 18th round of talks followed the first in-person meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) since July 2019, which was held in Beijing in February.

At the WMCC, both sides "reviewed the situation along the LAC" and said they "discussed proposals for disengagement in the remaining areas in an open and constructive manner, which would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC in Western Sector and create conditions for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations".

Tardy progress: PLA soldiers during military disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh in 2021. FILE PHOTO

India has maintained that disengagement, and subsequently de-escalation along the LAC which has seen tens of thousands of troops deployed in forward areas, are both critical to restoring ties.

Relations have since 2020 been in a state of freeze, barring the record bilateral trade figures reported in 2021 and 2022 with India's imports of Chinese goods reaching record highs, as well as the resumption of high-level visits on account of India's hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and G-20 summits this year.

China's new Defence Minister, General Li Shangfu, will this week make his first visit to India, which is also the first high-level military visit since the LAC crisis began, for the SCO Defence Ministers' meet.

Investment inflow

While trade has boomed, New Delhi has, as the same time, all but curtailed the inflow of once surging Chinese investment. India has not yet given the green light for resuming direct flights between the two countries, first suspended because of the pandemic, and yet to restart after close to three years, while cross-border movement of business people and tourists has reduced to a trickle.

Chinese officials in statements have recently claimed border management has already moved towards "normalised" control, although that is not the view in New Delhi given the continued deployment of troops close to the LAC.

India has seen China's mass deployments as leaving in tatters past understandings that helped maintain peace, since the first agreement on peace and tranquillity signed in 1993.

The claim of "normalised" management was repeated again on Monday by the Communist Party-run *Global Times*, which said "the border issue is shifting from a stand-off to normalised management."

"The China-India border issue is now gradually shifting from a conflict and a stand-off to a normalised management phase, and the situation on the border is expected to become steadier and calmer in the future," Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the newspaper.

"But the border issue remains complex, so it still requires both sides to further implement mechanisms at all levels and through different channels to meet each other halfway as much as possible, so as to find a fair and reasonable solution."

Chinese experts are yet to offer any explanation of why the PLA mobilised in unprecedented numbers in April 2020, and contravening past agreements, pushed up towards China's LAC claim lines in several areas, denying India access to the overlapping "grey zones" patrolled previously by both sides.

Vibrant Villages plan to be merged with PM Gati Shakti

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

One of the objectives of the programme is to stop the migration of border population, says official

The Centre's ambitious Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), which aims to develop infrastructure and open up villages along the China border to tourists, will be integrated with the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti mega project.

The digital platform of the Gati Shakti project brings 16 Ministries, including Railways and Highways, together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects and allows departments to break operational silos.

Satellite images

The Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) in Gujarat has been roped in to provide satellite images and GIS mapping of the projects that will be taken up under the scheme.

An official said that BISAG-N will be tracking the infrastructure and other land-use changes in the border villages for real-time monitoring.

One of the objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme is to stop migration of border population, a senior government official said.

The report on demands for grants of the Union Home Ministry tabled in Parliament on March 20 stated that the objective is to motivate people to continue to stay there and "it will also help to gather intelligence from the people of border villages."

On February 15, the Union Cabinet approved the programme to cover 2,967 villages in 46 border blocks of 19 districts in four States and one Union Territory along the China border. Of these, 662 villages will be prioritised for coverage.

The scheme has been allocated ₹4,800 crore for the financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26. The amount allocated for road construction is ₹2,500 crore.

Ramping up efforts to forge Opposition unity, Nitish Kumar calls on Akhilesh, Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA/LUCKNOW

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar on Monday ramped up efforts to unite the Opposition parties against the Bharatiya Janata Party in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election by holding separate meetings with his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow.

Mr. Kumar vowed to work hard to forge Opposition unity, and said a "good result" can be produced if all parties fight the election together.

Ms. Banerjee emphasised the need for Opposition parties to send out a message of unity, while the SP chief extended his full support to Mr. Kumar's campaign to "save democracy and the Constitution".

The JD(U) chief first called on Ms. Banerjee, along with his deputy and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, and termed the meeting "very positive". "Before the parliamentary election, the Opposition parties need to sit together and strategise," Mr. Kumar said.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson said she wants "the BJP to become zero" as they have turned "a big hero with the media's support and by resorting to false narratives, promises and videos, and thuggery. This can't continue".

Joining hands: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav. PTI

Ms. Banerjee said she and Mr. Kumar are reaching out to the leaders of Opposition parties and "there is no question of personal ego". "We are all together and want to work collectively. This is the message we want to send out," she said.

She also appealed to Mr. Kumar to hold an "all-party" meeting in Bihar.

On the Opposition adopting a one-seat-one-candidate formula against the BJP, Ms. Banerjee said the next course of action, including the joint manifesto, will be decided after the Opposition parties sit together and hold discussions.

Later in the day, Mr. Kumar met the SP chief and said he held "a good discussion" with him. "Whatever is being planned is for the nation's interest," he said. Mr. Akhilesh Yadav said he supported the Bihar Chief Minister's campaign to unseat the ruling BJP. "We are with you in your campaign to protect democracy and the Constitution. Due to the BJP's wrong economic policies, the farmers, poor and labourers are in pain," the SP chief said.

Mr. Kumar also reiterated that he was not eyeing the Prime Minister's chair. "I don't want anything for myself. I am not an aspirant for the Prime Minister post."

Patna HC relief for Rahul in Modi surname case

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Patna High Court on Monday granted relief to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the defamation case filed by Rajya Sabha member and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi.

The court stayed a lower court's order till May 15 in which Mr. Gandhi was asked to be physically present before the court to record his statement in the Modi surname case. On April 22, Mr. Gandhi filed a petition to quash the summons by the lower court.

Mr. Gandhi's counsel, Virendra Rathore, said that since a similar matter is already under a Surat court, there cannot be another trial in a different court in the same matter.

A Patna court had summoned the Congress leader on April 12 over the Modi surname remark, one week after Gujarat court convicted him for defamation.

Air traveller held for 'disruptive' behaviour

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A passenger aboard an American Airlines flight from New York to Delhi was handed over to the police on Sunday night over "disruptive" behaviour.

Differing versions were reported about the alleged incident. While the airline complained to the local police and aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation about a passenger in a drunken state urinating on a co-traveller, the Delhi Police said statements from co-passengers did not substantiate the allegation.

"The staff did not share who the accused urinated over or where did he do so in the aircraft. Passengers sitting near him also submitted in writing that they were not urinated over," said a senior Delhi police officer. The airlines said that a passenger was handed over to the police following a "disruption on board".

Central team visits Bengal to inspect works under rural housing scheme

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

A team of 20 officials from the Ministry of Rural Development toured 10 districts of West Bengal last week, to inspect the implementation of the rural housing scheme Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The Centre had withheld the ₹8,000-crore payout to the State for the scheme last year. Now, houses for over 11 lakh families in the State hinges on the findings of this team.

The report will also be politically crucial in the State with panchayat polls expected to be held by June.

In December last year, 11.36 lakh houses were sanctioned for the State under the scheme. But within days, a host of complaints from the BJP leadership in the State landed at the Ministry's door, putting brakes on the plan.

Consequently, the Centre withheld the funds and dispatched a team of National Level Monitors to the 10 districts. They toured the State in January. "Out of the 10 districts they toured, there were no problems found in the implementation in three districts. In the other seven, there were certain deviations from the guidelines laid down," a senior official explained.

The State administration was asked to take corrective steps and submit a detailed report. The Union government, however, did not find the administration's answers satisfactory and decided to carry out a second round of investigations.

"We will finalise the report in a week or 10 days' time, since many members of the inspection team are still submitting their report," another official said.

According to sources, the teams have not found any large-scale bungling. The main complaint against the State government was that they tweaked the beneficiary list to favour the ruling Trinamool Congress's cadre. As per the submissions made so far, there is no evidence to support these complaints.

OFFICE OF THE SE & PM WCDC ZILA PARISHAD ALWAR
File no. ()/26 Date: 13/4/2023
NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB NO. 01/2023-24
Bids for Farm pond, Amrit sarover, Anicut. PCD, MPT, PT, Recharge shaft, Talab Renovation, Pucca check dam, Johad Renovation, Sankan Pond, WHS Renovation etc. under PMKSY 2.0 project area in Block malakhera, mundawar, kathumar of estimated value INR 831.29 Lacs (03 Package) are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 PM, 25.04.2023 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/) of the State.
NIB CODE:- WSC2324A0018
UBN:- WSC2324WS0B00024
UBN:- WSC2324WS0B00023
UBN:- WSC2324WS0B00025
[Bajrang Sahay Meena]
Superintending Engineer and Project Manager
WCDC Zilla Parisad Alwar
DIPR/C/5674

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 13/2023-24/PHC/KNR(Re-Tender), Jal Jeevan Mission- Kasaragod District-Chemmanad Panchayath-Laying distribution system and providing FHTCs, **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 06-05-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 04972705902.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-112-2023-24 **PH Circle, Kannur**

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD / SALEM CIRCLE @ COIMBATORE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SALEM CIRCLE @ COIMBATORE, COWLY BROWN ROAD, R.S.PURAM, COIMBATORE – 641 002.
TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE
This Office EOI Tender Notice No.10/2022-2023 Dated:-20.03.2023, The tender date for the 3 Works **1)** Expression of interest (EOI) for Construction, market, sell and maintain the project facilities of 64 HIG flats (Basement + Stilt + 8 floors) in T.S.No.2/1, Block No.23, Ward "E" Periyar Nagar, E.V.N. Road, Erode under JV mode, **2)** Expression of interest (EOI) for Construction, market, sell and maintain the project facilities of 20 HIG flats (16 Flats+2 duplex flats) (Stilt + 4 floors) in S.F No: 412/4, 5, 16 Pt & 413 pt at Sampath Nagar, Erode under JV mode and **3)** Expression of interest (EOI) for Construction and Sales of 125 Nos of Houses (HIG I-67, HIG II-27 and MIG I-31) at Hosur Neighbourhood Scheme Phase VII, Hosur, Krishnagiri District under Joint Venture Mode are hereby **extended upto 23.05.2023** due to some unavoidable administrative reasons. The tender Schedules are available at the website **tntenders.gov.in** and also available in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Salem Circle at Coimbatore, R.S Puram, Coimbatore - 02 by making the Required Schedule cost of Rs. 15750/- (Including GST @ 5%) in the form of Demand Draft in the name of Executive Engineer & Admn. Officer, Erode Housing Unit for Serial No. 1&2 and Executive Engineer & Admn. Officer, Hosur Housing Unit for serial No.3 upto **22.05.2023** upto **1.00 PM.** The tenders will be opened on **23.05.2023** at **11.15 AM.**
Superintending Engineer (i/c),
DIPR/ 2290 /TENDER/2023 "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்" **Salem Circle @ Coimbatore.**

E-mail:-sejjn.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Jhunjhunu
No. 60 **Date: 13/04/23**
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for 01 Nos. work of Road/Building work (**Short Term NIT 01/2023-24 dated 13.04.2023)** in Jhunjhunu Distt. are invited from interested bidders from dated 15.04.2023 to 25.04.2023 upto 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in department website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 345.35 lacs.
UBN - (PWD2324WSOB00553), (PWD2324WSOB00554)
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/5808 **PWD Circle Jhunjhunu**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NIB No. 01, 02 & 03 (2023-24)
Tenders are hereby invited from reputed contractors registered in appropriate class in RRVPNL and A or AA class in Central/ State Govt. department & their undertaking and registered in GST department for the bid S.No. 01 to 10 of NIB no. 01, S.No. 01 to 11 of NIB no. 02 & S.No. 01 to 08 of NIB no. 03 under Executive Engineer (Civil) RRVPNL, Kota, Sawaimadhopur & Hindaun. All details of above NIB are available on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.rvpn.co.in** & **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**.
S.No. wise VPN No.
NIB No. 01 - VPN2324WSOB00206 to VPN2324WSOB00214
NIB No. 02 - VPN2324WSOB00215 to VPN2324WSOB00225
NIB No. 03 - VPN2324SSOB00226 to VPN2324SSOB00233
Superintending Engineer (Civil), Kota
Raj.Samwad/C/23/1133 **RRVPN/TR-5816/2023**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT, BHUBANESWAR.
Plot No.A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022, E-Mail : cemlpwr.od@gmail.com
Government of Odisha - "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 2ML/2023-24
The Chief Engineer, Megalift on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online tender through "E"procurement for the work as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.
ANNEXURE TO BID NOTICE

Name of the work	Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for implementation of Mega Lift projects in Cluster No. XIX
Cost of Tender Paper	Rs. 10,000/-+GST 18% (Non- Refundable)
EMD/Bid Security	Rs.7,56,131/-
Mode of payment of tender paper Cost & EMD	Online
Period of Completion	36(Thirty-Six) Calendar months
Availability of Bid document for sale and receipt through on-line	From dt.25.04.2023, 10.00 A.M, to dt.24.05.2023, up to 5.00 P.M
Last date / time of receipt of bid in the portal	24.05.2023 (5.00PM)
Date of opening of Technical Proposal through online	On dt. 25.05.2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Megalift.
Class of Contractor	The bidder should be registered under the Companies Act, 1956
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder	The Bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC).
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR web site - https:/dowrodisha.gov.in	
Name & Address of the OIT	Chief Engineer, Megalift, Plot No. A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022 Ph.No-0674-2567252, Email ID: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place. https://tendersodisha.gov.in	

A-63: **Chief Engineer, Megalift, Bhubaneswar.**
OIPR-32504/11/0002/2324

SRI KONDA LAXMAN TELANGANA STATE HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, MULUGU V & M, SIDDIPET DISTRICT
E-Procurement Tender Notice
e-Procurement Tender Notice No. 01/SKLTSHU/DH/2023-24 Dt: 24-04-2023.
S.No. (1) Name of work:- Procurement and installation of desktops, networking lan, wi-fi, CCTV and firewall in two bid system at Mulugu Siddipet (Dist.); Approximate value of work in Rupees:- 1,20,00,000/-; EMD to be paid in the Shape of DD/Online:- Rs. 1,20,000/-; Period of Completion:- 2 Months; **(2)** Procurement and installation of smart classrooms in two bid system at Mulugu; 40,00,000/-; Rs. 40,000/-; 1 Month; **Downloading Start Date & Time:** Dt: 27-04-2023, Time:- 2:00 PM; **Bid Downloading Last Date & Time:** Dt: 15-05-2023, Time:- 2.00 PM; **Submission of Bids Last Date & Time:** Dt: 15-05-2023, Time:- 5:00 PM; **Date of Opening of Technical Bid: Dt:** 16-05-2023, Time:- 3:00 PM; **Date of Opening of Price Bid:** Dt: 18-05-2023, Time:- 2.00 PM; Contact Officer and Contact Details: Assistant Professor **9493973648.** For further details:- **https://tender.telangana.gov.in/** Please visit.
DIPR R.O. No. : 81-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24, Date: 24-04-2023 **SD/- REGISTRAR**

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CIN No.U74999TN1997PLC039523
No.4, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, TARAMANI, CHENNAI - 600 113
Ph: 044-22540500/501; Mail:tenders@tidelpark.com Web Site: www.tidelpark.com
NOTICE NO. TIDEL/2023–24/01 **25.04.2023**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
TIDEL Park Ltd. invites Proposals from eligible consulting firms under two cover system for Design Engineering and Project Management Consultancy Services for establishing TIDEL Park at Mattuthavani, Madurai
The RFP bidding documents can be downloaded from **www.tntenders.gov.in**. The last date and time for submission of proposal is **24.05.2023 upto 3.00 PM.** TIDEL Park reserves the right to accept / reject any one / all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
DIPR/339/DIS/2023 **Managing Director**
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைத்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

INBRIEF

Desecration of gurdwara: Mann calls for restraint

An incident of desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib took place at a gurdwara in Morinda town of Punjab on Monday, following which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann urged people to exercise restraint. The incident occurred at Gurdwara Kotwali Sahib at Morinda in Rupnagar district, when a Sikh youth, identified as Jasvir Singh, entered the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Gurdwara and hit two priests. The police said a case under Section 295 A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the Indian Penal Code, besides other relevant sections has been registered against the accused.

NCM seeks list of Punjab sacrilege incidents in 45 years

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has written to the Chief Secretary, Punjab, asking authorities to share a list of all incidents of sacrilege that have taken place in the State in the past 45 years. This has been done in order to analyse why frequent incidents of sacrilege occur in the State and they are not being prevented, the NCM said. This comes after an incident of sacrilege at Gurdwara Sahib in Morinda, where a man forcibly entered the religious place and assaulted priests. "The accused also disrespected the Sri Guru Guru Granth Sahib, which hurt the sentiments of the people," the commission noted.

100 crore people have tuned in to *Mann Ki Baat*: IIM study

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly programme *Mann Ki Baat* has reached more than 100 crore people who have listened to it at least once, as extrapolated in an exhaustive study commissioned by Prasar Bharati and conducted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Rohtak. The findings of the study were released on Monday ahead of the 100th edition of the programme on April 30. The survey covered responses from 10,003 people (above 15 years of age) from across 103 districts in different parts of the country, comprising about 2,500 respondents from each of the four zones.

Conversion' of gurdwara into Buddhist site: NCM intervenes

Responding to the allegation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) that the historic gurdwara associated with Guru Nanak Dev in Mechuka, Arunachal Pradesh, has been converted into a Buddhist shrine, the National Commission of Minorities (NCM) on Monday sought a detailed report from the State's Chief Secretary. In a statement, the NCM said that such incidents hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community and create a feeling of discrimination among them. "We have sought a detailed report in the matter for consideration of the Commission," the commission statement added.

SC transfers all FIRs against comedian Faruqui to Indore

The Bench extended his interim protection for three weeks in connection with the production warrant in Delhi; court clarifies that it has not made any comments on the merits of the case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday transferred multiple FIRs registered against comedian Munawar Faruqui for allegedly hurting religious sentiments, to Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

A Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai also confirmed an ad-interim bail granted by the Supreme Court in February 2021.

The court clarified that it has not made any comments on the merits of the case, and Mr. Faruqui was at liberty to approach the High Court concerned in accordance with law for quashing the proceedings against him.

> Faruqui is at liberty to approach the High Court concerned in accordance with law for quashing the proceedings against him
> **SUPREME COURT**

Initially, Mr. Faruqui's counsel sought the cases to be transferred to either Mumbai or Delhi. He said there were threats made against Mr. Faruqui and that he had even been manhandled earlier. The Madhya Pradesh counsel said a complaint filed in Delhi was not registered as an FIR. The court said Indore was a safe city.

The FIR said Mr. Faruqui made derogatory remarks against Hindu deities during a stand-up comedy show at a cafe in Indore in January 2021. In February 2021, the court had granted ad-interim bail and stayed production warrant issued against Mr. Faruqui.

The court had made adverse remarks about how the police had hardly complied with the lawful procedure prescribed under Section 41 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before arresting the comedian.

Justice Rohinton F. Nariman (now retired) at the time pointed out that the Supreme Court, in a scathing judgment in Arnesh Kumar versus State of Bihar in 2014, had warned State governments and their police from depriving personal liberty without following due process of law.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court had refused Mr. Faruqui bail on January 28, 2021. This had, at the time, forced the comedian to appeal to the apex court. The Supreme Court had stayed the High Court's verdict.

New IT Rules do not offer protection to parody or satire: HC

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday said the Information Technology (IT) Amendment Rules, 2023 did not seem to offer protection to fair criticism of the government through parody or satire.

A Division Bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale was hearing a plea by political satirist Kunal Kamra challenging the constitutional validity of the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had filed an affidavit stating the Union government will only direct removal of false or misleading information pertaining to government policies and programmes.

The court, however, remarked, "You [Centre] are not affecting parody, satire, that is what your affidavit says. That is not what your rules say. There is no protection granted. That we will have to see."

Senior advocate Navroz Seervai appearing for Mr. Kamra argued, "They [Centre] are saying that the government action cannot be scrutinised. Can they say that in a democracy? People in this country are scared, when they shouldn't be in a rule of law."

Additional Solicitor-General Anil Singh said, "The notification has not been notified. Once it is done, they can move at any time." The court said the Rules have been notified and posted the matter to be heard on April 27.

EPFO allots a month to check joint options for higher pension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Applications and joint options for higher PF pension will be examined by regional offices

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has released yet another circular on implementing the Supreme Court order on higher PF pension. Regional Provident Fund officers were given one month's time to examine the joint options for higher pension submitted by employees and employers.

The circular released by Regional PF Commissioner Aprajita Jaggi on April 22 said the applications and joint options for higher PF pension would be examined by the regional offices.

She said that in case the requirements are complete, the wage details submitted by the employers will be verified with the data available with field offices. "In the cases where field office details and employers' details match, the dues will be calculated and an order will be passed by Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner / Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-II / Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I for depositing / transferring the dues. In the cases where there is a mismatch, the same will be informed to the employer and the employee / pensioner by APFC/ RPFC-II. They will be given a time of one month to complete the information," Ms. Jaggi said in the circular. The last date for filing joint options is on May 3.

Time for employer

Ms. Jaggi added that in case submitted application forms or joint option is not approved by the employer, an opportunity will be given to the employer for providing any additional proof or evidence or to correct any mistakes including those made by employees or pensioners before any rejection. "Such opportunity will be for a period of one month and under intimation to the employees / pensioners," she added.

Ms. Jaggi added that in cases where the submitted information is not complete or erroneous, regional offices will seek information from the employers under intimation to the employees and pensioners within one month. Applicants can register any grievances on the EPFO portal.

Malaria set to be notifiable disease across India even as cases show a decline

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Malaria is all set to become a notifiable disease across India, with Bihar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Meghalaya too in the process of putting the vector-borne disease in the category. This will then require by law that cases be reported to government authorities. Currently, malaria is a notifiable disease in 33 States and Union Territories in India.

Confirming the development, a senior Health Ministry official said this is part of India's vision to be malaria-free by 2027 and to eliminate the disease by 2030. The Health Ministry has also initiated a joint action plan with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for malaria elimination in tribal areas.

Meanwhile, delivering the keynote address at the Asia-Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination on Monday, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that in India, malaria is not just a public health issue but also a social, economic, and political challenge that requires the cooperation of all stakeholders.

"India was the only high-burden, high-impact country in the southeast Asia region to report a decline in malaria cases in 2020 as compared to 2019. India witnessed a 85.1% decline in malaria cases and 83.36% decline in deaths during 2015-2022."

The country plans to be malaria-free by 2027 and to eliminate the disease by 2030. FILE PHOTO

Kept in check

The Health Ministry added that there is now availability of near-real time data monitoring through an integrated health information platform (HIP-Malaria Portal) and periodic regional review meetings to keep a check on malaria growth across India.

Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, World Health Organisation regional director, southeast Asia, added that countries affected by malaria in this region should accelerate the reach of high-impact tools and strategies to prevent, detect and treat it.

"Intensified efforts must be made to reach at-risk and vulnerable populations with currently available strategies and tools. Globally, children in the poorest households are five times more likely to be infected with malaria. Malaria is also more prevalent among young children whose mothers have a lower level of education and live in rural areas. Reaching these populations with available malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment is critical for achieving the global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030 and Sustainable Development Goal targets and delivering on the promise of zero malaria for everyone, everywhere," she said.

Cong. tells PM it was behind Panchayati Raj Act of 1993

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Countering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation on Monday that the Congress governments meted out a "step-motherly" treatment to villages, the Congress reminded him and the nation that it was a Congress government that had given constitutional status to panchayats by way of the 73rd Constitution Amendment.

Speaking on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day in Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Modi said, "The party which ruled the most after Independence broke the trust of villages... meted out step-motherly treatment to them."

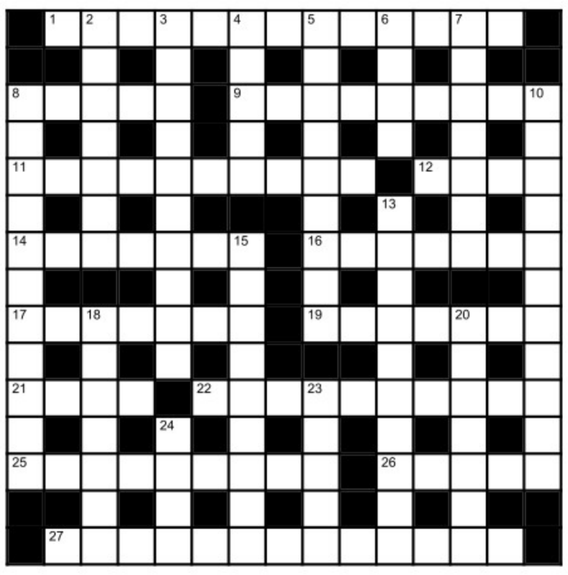
At a press conference at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said Rajiv Gandhi's biggest contribution in Indian political history was to take the first step towards constitutional status for panchayats. "The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Bill became an Act on 24th April, 1993, during a Congress government's rule," Mr. Ramesh said. He also pointed out that it was the UPA government in 2010 that marked April 24 as Panchayati Raj Divas.

TH CROSSWORD + 13848

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Completely in love, he and she dare to rebel (4,4,5)
8 College girl in tutorial (5)
9 Batsman finally given run out - it's disheartening (9)
11 Alert as yorker might land here? (2,4,4)
12 Check trunk (4)
14 Urea is manufactured on a large landmass (7)
16 Outrage over extremely risqué outfit (7)
17 Shabby articles having plain upholstery fabric (7)
19 See director and siren cavorting outside club (7)
21 Making a comeback, star gaily entertains Indian city (4)
22 Criminal found outside bar, caught (10)
25 Managing director returns to tour spacious and secluded place producing milk (5,4)
26 Start to inspect number on container of ancient Peruvian people (5)
27 Enthralled by drink? Yeah! Let's go berserk, to put it mildly (2,3,3,5)

Down

2 Be sorry about stealing retired old chap's charm (7)
3 Place providing drugs from small stalls found in journal (10)
4 Brag in front of vain relative (5)
5 Rushed closer to big antelope in grazing territory (9)
6 Most ancient nobleman (4)
7 At sea, sit with reel and spear for catching fish (7)
8 Chat mischievously to enthral miss, then get near (5,2,4)
10 Information about a maiden with flashy jewellery and diamonds in casino (8,3)
13 Abandon principles in a job and start to swindle, breaking a commitment (10)
15 One travelling to Saturn? (9)
18 Mexican dish in spread, served up with starter of taco in Brazilian city (7)
20 Seduces in secret, slyly runs away (7)
23 Republican lost composure in American city (5)
24 Dreamy naturalist provides shelter to bird (4)

SUDOKU

					3		4	2
3					2		6	5
2						9	1	
			6	4			8	
			9		8			
	6			2	5			
	2	5						9
9	3		5					6
7	1		2					

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

W	O	O	D	W	A	R	D		S	P	I	D	E	R
A		R		A		O		G		R		R		A
N	I	G	E	R	I	A		E	X	O	G	A	M	Y
G		A		E		R		N		O		M		L
L	U	N	C	H		I	N	E	F	F	A	B	L	E
E		S		O		N		R				U		I
			B	U	R	G	L	A	R	I	S	I	N	G
C		C		S		S		L		N		E		H
O	N	O	N	E	S	U	P	P	E	R	S			
M		N				C		U		E		A		P
A	R	T	I	F	I	C	E	R		A	S	T	E	R
T		R		I		E		P		L		W		E
O	R	I	E	N	T	S		O	R	I	F	I	C	E
S		V		E		S		S		T		L		N
E	X	E	D	R	A		R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	6	1	2	9	3	8	7
9	1	3	8	6	7	2	4	5
8	2	7	4	3	5	9	6	1
4	3	5	9	7	1	6	2	8
6	9	8	2	5	4	7	1	3
1	7	2	3	8	6	4	5	9
7	6	9	5	1	2	8	3	4
2	8	1	7	4	3	5	9	6
3	5	4	6	9	8	1	7	2

FAITH

Sri Ramanuja, the great guru

Lord Narayana has manifested Himself as Vedavyasa. He has edited and classified the Vedas and also authored Brahmasutra – the explanation for Vedas and Upanishads that tells about Brahmam – the supreme being. Sutras are small in letters or words but big in meanings hidden in them. Many Acharyas have written commentary on Brahmasutra narrating in detail and such commentaries are called Bashyas. The commentary of Sri Ramanuja is called "Sribashyam". There are 545 sutras in Sribashyam.

Sri Ramanuja was a great philosopher, guru and a social reformer. His ideologies were influential to the Bakthi movement. Ramanuja's chief contribution to the philosophy of Visishtadvaita was that discursive thought is necessary in humanity's search for the ultimate verities. In this dark age of Kaliyuga, Sri Ramanuja was born like a glowing sun to dispel our ignorance. Treading by foot and travelling up to Kashmir, the Acharya fetched the palm leaf manuscript written by Sri Bodhayanar that contained references for the commentaries of Sribashya. Sri Koorathazhwan had helped Sri Ramanuja in his work of Sribashya.

To remove the silt from a well, usually emblic myrobalan tree wood (*nellikattai*) is put into the well which will remove the dirt. We have to keep Ramanuja in our heart to cleanse the filth laden in it, said Velukudi Krishnan Swamy in a discourse.

The Acharya had written nine scriptures and they are called Navarathnas.

It is said that Adisesha was sent by Lord Narayana as Ramanuja for the upliftment of the common folks.

DHAKA

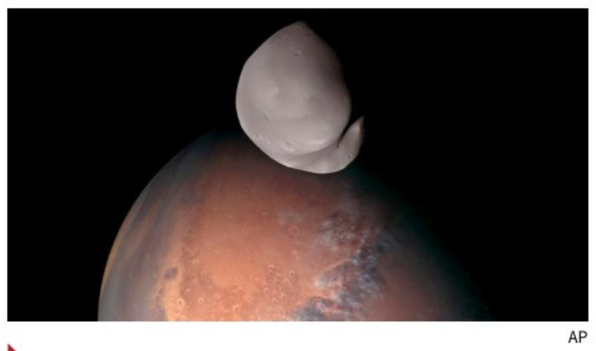
Mohammad Shahabuddin takes oath as Bangladesh's President

AFP

Veteran politician Mohammed Shahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh at a state ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Cabinet colleagues. Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath to 73-year-old Shahabuddin at the historic Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban. PTI

PARIS

UAE's Hope space probe offers never before view of Mars moon



AP

The UAE's Hope space probe on Monday revealed Mars' smaller moon Deimos in unprecedented detail, shedding new light on the origin of the mysterious lumpy satellite. The probe, the Arab world's first interplanetary mission, has been orbiting Mars for two years, regularly flying past Deimos and its big sibling moon Phobos. AFP

MOSCOW

GigaChat from Russia plans to compete with U.S.'s ChatGPT

REUTERS

Leading Russian technology company Sber on Monday announced the launch of its conversational artificial intelligence app intended to rival the U.S. star ChatGPT. The state company said in a statement on its website that it was "launching its own version" of a chatbot, which will be called GigaChat — a first for Russia. AFP

JERICHO

Israeli forces kill Palestinian man during raid in occupied West Bank

AFP

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian man in the occupied West Bank, the Palestine Health Ministry said, during what the Army described as a "counterterrorism" operation. The Ministry said that Suleiman Ayash, 20, was "killed by the occupation (Israeli) bullets, in Aqabat Jaber camp", the site of previous deadly Israeli raids this year. AFP

After dispute, Beijing says it honours sovereignty of states

China's Ambassador to France Lu Shaye had earlier questioned the sovereignty of ex-Soviet states; Beijing now walks back the comments, saying it 'upholds the principles of the UN Charter'

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China insisted it respects the sovereignty of all ex-Soviet countries on Monday, after comments by its Ambassador to France drew ire in Europe and threw into question Beijing's efforts to position itself as a neutral mediator of the Ukraine war.

Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, the EU's three Baltic countries, summoned China's envoys on Monday to account for Ambassador Lu Shaye questioning the sovereignty of former Soviet states.

In comments to French broadcaster *LCI* on Friday, Mr. Lu said countries that emerged after the fall of the Soviet Union "don't have effective status under international law because there is not an international agreement confirming their status as sovereign nations". The ambassador appeared to be referring not just to Ukraine, which Russia invaded in February 2022, but also to all former Soviet republics which emerged as independent nations after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

> The countries that emerged after the fall of the Soviet Union don't have effective status under international law because there is not an international agreement confirming their status as sovereign nations
>
> **LU SHAYE**
> Chinese Ambassador to France

Neutral stance

Beijing on Monday distanced itself from Mr. Lu's remarks – while also defending its claimed neutral stance on Russia's war in Ukraine. President Xi Jinping has sought to act as peacemaker in the conflict as he seeks a greater role for China on the global stage – even as Western leaders have accused Beijing of providing diplomatic cover to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"China respects the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries and upholds the purposes and principles of the UN Charter," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters on Monday.

"After the collapse of the Soviet Union, China was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with relevant countries." She accused "some media" of misinterpreting China's position on Ukraine and "sowing discord in relations between China and relevant countries".

Mr. Lu's comments last week sparked a wave of outrage across Europe, including in the EU's three Baltic countries.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis wrote on Twitter that "if anyone is still wondering why the Baltic States don't trust China to 'broker peace in Ukraine', here's a Chinese ambassador arguing that Crimea is Russian and our countries' borders have no legal basis".

France's Foreign Ministry said a scheduled meeting with Mr. Lu in Paris on Monday would be "an opportunity for a stern rebuke".

Bangladesh lists out its priorities for Indo-Pacific

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Peacekeeping, peace building and counter-terrorism initiatives are high on the agenda

Bangladesh will work with all the stakeholders for peacekeeping, peace building and counter-terrorism initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said. In an important policy announcement ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Japan, the U.S. and the U.K., Dhaka came out in support of "rules-based international order" and "free and uninterrupted movement and trade".

Bangladesh will aim for "inclusive development by strengthening free, transparent and rules-based international order," the Ministry has said.

The announcement on Dhaka's Indo-Pacific priorities was made for the first time on Monday in a document titled "*Bangladesher Indo-Pacific Ruprekha*" (Indo-Pacific outlook). Significantly, the document was released during a press conference that was held to announce Ms. Hasina's visit to Japan, the U.S. and the United Kingdom that will begin on Tuesday.

Bangladesh will also pursue the agenda of "women, peace and security" in the Indo-Pacific.

Spelling out the country's priorities, the document declared that Bangladesh supports "existing structure of maritime security and wants to strengthen it". It further said that it supports "unobstructed oceanic movement" . As part of its strategy, Bangladesh will support upholding of national sovereignty and oppose interference in the internal affairs of members of the region.

"To ensure free flow of trade despite future crisis and emergencies, Bangladesh will strengthen regional and global value chain and will direct its agriculture, industry and services sector to that direction," the statement stated.

The document mentioned "responsible behaviour in cyber and outer space". Bangladesh has not joined any regional initiative in the Indo-Pacific and its representatives had earlier stated that Dhaka was not planning to participate in regional initiatives.

Wagner to kill rival soldiers, will not take prisoners

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The chief of Russia's Wagner mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, said his men fighting in the flashpoint eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut would kill rival soldiers and take no more prisoners.

He was reacting to a Wagner-affiliated Telegram channel posting of an alleged recording of what it said were two Ukrainians deciding to shoot a Russian prisoner of war.

The channel did not say where the recording came from and there is no way of verifying its authenticity.

"We will kill everyone on the battlefield. Take no more prisoners of war!" Mr. Prigozhin said in an audio recording on Sunday.

More countries move for Sudan evacuations

Reuters
KHARTOUM

Europe, China and Japan raced to extract their citizens from Khartoum on Monday and thousands more people took advantage of an apparent lull in fighting between the Army and a paramilitary force over the past two days to escape Sudan.

The sudden eruption of violence between the military and the well-armed Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group on April 15 triggered a humanitarian crisis and has killed 427 people, UN agencies said.

Nations, including Gulf states and Russia, were trying to get citizens out on Monday, and there was a growing exodus to Sudan's neighbours, including 10,000 people who fled to South Sudan despite chronic instability there.

Families with children crowded into Spanish and French military transport planes, while a group of nuns were among the evacuees on an Italian aircraft, photographs showed.

France and Germany on Monday said they had evacuated around 700 people, without giving a breakdown of their nationalities.

Kenya cult starvation case toll climbs to 73

Agence France-Presse
MALINDI

The death toll in a case involving a Kenyan cult that practiced starvation climbed to 73 Monday, the police sources said as investigators unearthed more corpses from mass graves in a forest near the coast.

A major search is under way near the coastal town of Malindi where dozens of bodies were exhumed over the weekend, sending shockwaves through the country as President William Ruto vowed to crack down on "unacceptable" religious movements.

A full-scale investigation has been launched into the Good News International Church and its leader, named in court documents as Paul Mackenzie Nthenge, who preached that death by starvation delivered followers to God.

It is believed some of his devotees could still be hiding in the bush around Shakahola.

The place was raided by police earlier this month after a tip-off from a local non-profit group.

Since then, a number of people have been rescued and dozens of bodies unearthed in mass graves dug in shallow pits.

Fox News and Tucker Carlson part ways after channel settles Dominion lawsuit

Reuters

Fox News Media and top-rated host Tucker Carlson have agreed to part ways, the media company said, less than a week after it and its parent Fox Corp settled a defamation lawsuit by Dominion Voting Systems for $787.5 million.

Mr. Carlson was expected to be a key witness in the trial centering around Fox's false claims that the 2020 presidential election had been manipulated in favor of Democrat Joe Biden.

Mr. Carlson's primetime show, "*Tucker Carlson Tonight*," had been the highest-rated cable news program in the key 25-to-54 age demographic, regularly attracting more than 3 million nightly viewers.

Tucker Carlson

Mr. Carlson's next move was unclear. Fox shares dropped sharply on the news, and were last off 3.8% in active trading.

The settlement with Denver-based Dominion averted a lengthy trial that would have put Fox's content and operations front and centre.

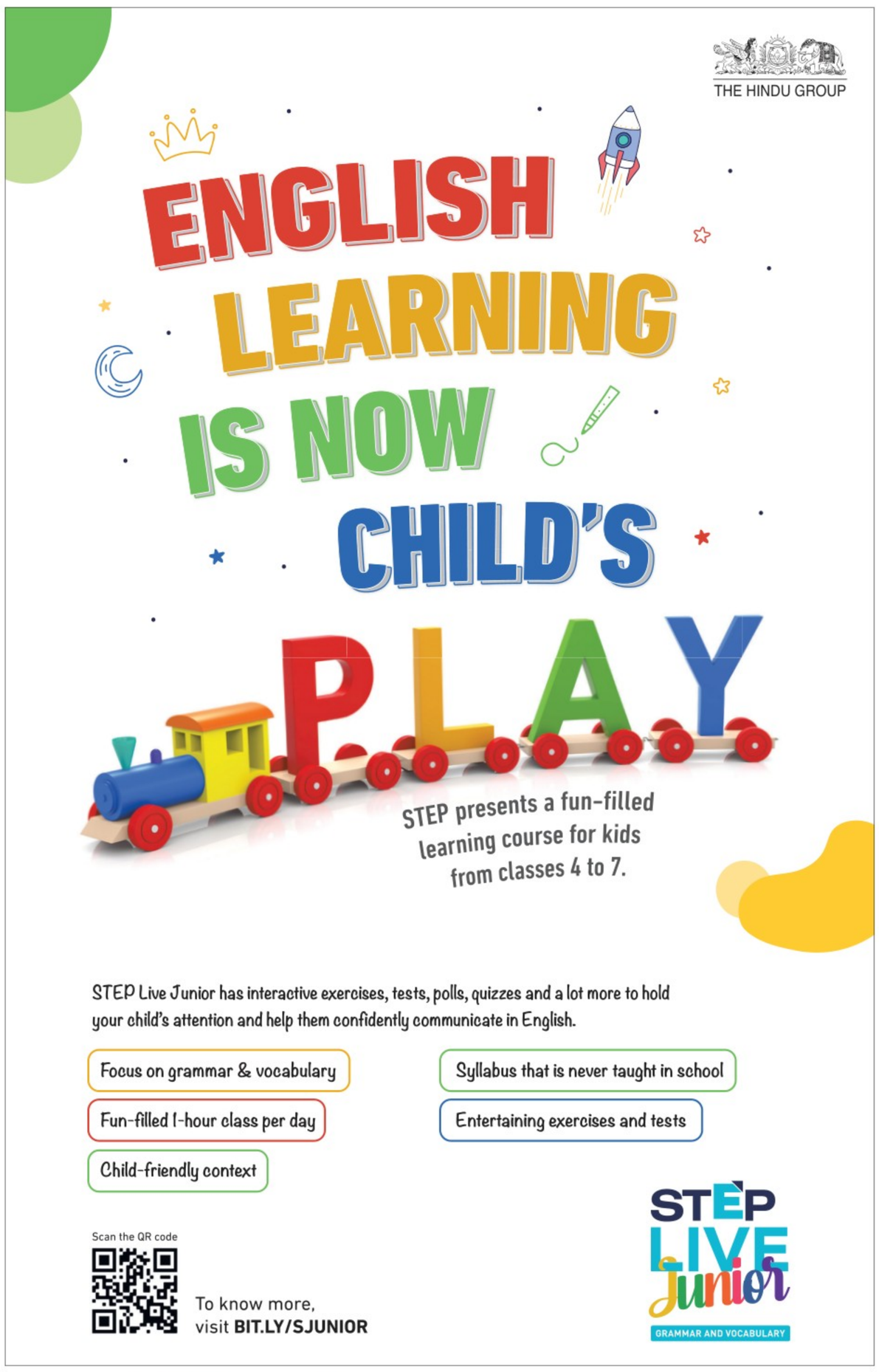
The company still faces additional legal battles, including a $2.7 billion suit from voting technology company SmartMatic as well as a lawsuit from a former producer who said Fox coerced her testimony in the Dominion case.

In 2021, Fox cancelled "*Lou Dobbs Tonight*" just after the longtime host was named in the SmartMatic lawsuit.

Mr. Carlson's last program was April 21, the company said in the statement. It said that "*Fox News Tonight*" will air live at 8 p.m. EST starting today as an interim show helmed by rotating Fox News personalities until a new host is named.

Don Lemon out of CNN

Meanwhile, longtime CNN host Don Lemon is out at the cable news network a little over two months after apologising to viewers for on-air comments about Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley, CNN announced on Monday.


THE HINDU GROUP
ENGLISH LEARNING IS NOW CHILD'S PLAY
STEP presents a fun-filled learning course for kids from classes 4 to 7.
STEP Live Junior has interactive exercises, tests, polls, quizzes and a lot more to hold your child's attention and help them confidently communicate in English.
Focus on grammar & vocabulary
Syllabus that is never taught in school
Fun-filled 1-hour class per day
Entertaining exercises and tests
Child-friendly context
Scan the QR code
To know more, visit BIT.LY/SJUNIOR
STEP LIVE Junior
GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY
A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

SBI unveils fourth branch for start-ups at BKC, Mumbai

SBI chairman Dinesh Khara said on Monday that the bank's newly set up specialised branch for start-ups will provide end-to-end support at every stage of their journey – from the formation of the entity till their IPOs and FPOs. He was speaking at the inauguration of the bank's fourth specialised start-up branch at BKC in Mumbai. Besides start-ups, he said, the bank would also cater to the requirements of private equity, venture capital and alternative investment funds.

APM Terminals Pipavav to set up liquid berth at $90 mn

APM Terminals Pipavav in Gujarat has announced to set up a new liquid berth at the port at an investment of about $90 million to serve customers better. Currently, the port has the capacity to handle 2 MMT of liquid bulk. With the new berth, this will increase to 5.2 MMT. "This investment strengthens our commitment to provide world-class facilities and services to our customers," said Girish Aggarwal, MD - APM Terminals Pipavav.

Bitcoin could hit $1,00,000 by end-'24: Standard Chartered

Top cryptocurrency bitcoin could reach $1,00,000 by the end of 2024, Standard Chartered said on Monday, saying the so-called "crypto winter" is over. Bitcoin could gain from factors, including recent turmoil in the banking sector, a stabilisation of risk assets as the U.S. Federal Reserve ends its interest rate-hiking cycle and improved profitability of crypto mining, Standard Chartered's head of digital assets research Geoff Kendrick wrote in a note. REUTERS

Adani Ports begins $130 mn bond buyback in debt rejig

The debt buyback is the company's first since the Hindenburg report; the ports-to-cooking oil conglomerate hopes to regain investor confidence by reassuring them about its liquidity position

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) on Monday started its first debt buyback programme since the conglomerate was targeted by a U.S. short seller in January.

APSEZ floated a tender to buy back as much as $130 million of its July 2024 bonds and similar amounts in each of the next four quarters, it said in an exchange filing, as it looks to regain investor confidence by showing that its liquidity position is comfortable.

Shares of Adani group companies plunged after Hindenburg Research in a January 24 report accused it of accounting fraud and improper use of offshore tax havens for stock manipulation.

APSEZ said it had started a buyback programme for its 3.375% 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds.

"The purpose of the tender offer is to partly prepay the company's near-term debt maturities and to convey the comfortable liquidity position," it said in a statement.

"After the successful completion of this tender offer, the company expects $520 million notes to remain outstanding."

Adani returns

The Adani Group's APSEZ has forayed into the capital market for the first time since the Hindenburg Research report

- The company will be buying back $130 million of 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds
- The buyback is intended to reassure investors of the company's liquidity position
- Adani shares were pummelled after Hindenburg accused the group of accounting fraud and stock manipulation

'Credit growth likely to moderate to 10% in FY24'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The credit growth momentum is waning in the country and the crucial non-food loans growth is expected to slip to 10% in FY24 from more than 15% in FY23, a Japanese brokerage said on Monday.

Ebbing inflationary pressures, especially on the wholesale side which tends to lower working capital needs, and a likely moderation in GDP growth to 5.3% in FY24 were cited as the primary reasons for the lower bank credit growth expectation by Nomura.

BoM Q4 net profit more than doubles

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The bank's board has recommended a dividend of ₹1.30 per share of face value of ₹10 each, or 13%

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) reported fourth-quarter net profit more than doubled year-on-year to ₹840 crore on improved performance.

Net interest income (NII) during Q4 grew by 35.7% to ₹2,187 crore. Net revenues (NII plus other income) rose 41 % to ₹3,009 crore for Q4FY23.

For the year ended March 31, the bank reported net profit more than doubled to ₹2,602 crore. NII grew by 28% to ₹7,741 crore as against ₹6,044 crore for the year ended March 31, 2022.

Total business grew by 21.2% to ₹4,09,202 crore.

Total deposits of the bank increased by 15.7% to ₹2,34,083 crore while gross advances grew by 29.5% to ₹1,75,120 crore.

The board recommended a dividend of ₹1.30 per share, or 13% per share of ₹10 face value each out of the net profit for the year ended March 31, 2023.

IndusInd Bank Q4 PAT surges 46% to ₹2,043 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

IndusInd Bank Ltd. reported that its fourth-quarter consolidated net profit grew 46% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹2,043 crore due to improvement in asset quality. Net Interest Income for the quarter ended March 31, 2023 was reported at ₹4,669 crore, a growth of 17% YoY.

For 2022-23, the bank reported net profit at ₹7,443 crore, up 55% YoY. Net Interest Income for the year was at ₹17,592 crore, up by 17% YoY.

'Non-tech sectors may keep hiring in H1 FY24'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tourism, banking, and hospitality are among the industries that would still be hiring in H1

Despite an unofficial freeze on tech hiring, non-tech sectors are expected to continue to hire for technology-focused roles requiring niche skill sets in the first half of FY24, said NLB Services, a workforce solutions provider based in Atlanta.

Consulting majors including PwC, KPMG, Deloitte and EY have major plans to ramp up hiring for tech roles and leverage the local talent pool in India.

"The skill domains which are experiencing major demand from non-tech industries range across Big Data, 5G, AI/ML, cybersecurity, UI/UX, DevOps, and Cloud, to name a few," said Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services.

"Additionally, corporates are expected to increase their upskilling budget by 12-15% this financial year," Mr. Alug added.

Tourism, banking, hospitality, healthcare, real estate, manufacturing, retail, and automotive are some of the industries that would still be hiring in H1.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,056	0.67
US Dollar	81.92	0.17
Gold	60,065	-0.80
Brent oil	82.57	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1801.95	-1.05
Adani Ports	671.30	9.70
Apollo Hosp	4399.05	37.75
Asian Paints	2891.10	9.00
Axis Bank	882.30	18.10
Bajaj Auto	4332.10	23.80
Bajaj Finserv	1319.75	1.85
Bajaj Finance	5933.75	-4.15
Bharti Airtel	760.25	-4.95
BPCL	347.20	1.00
Britannia Ind	4311.00	-16.80
Cipla	903.00	-12.05
Coal India	231.55	1.50
Divis Lab	3192.85	-38.80
Dr. Reddy's Lab	4806.10	-62.65
Eicher Motors	3182.80	-17.90
Grasim Ind	1689.30	27.35
HCL Tech	1054.05	5.10
HDFC	2787.55	28.15
HDFC Bank	1688.15	13.55
HDFC Life	547.55	34.25
Hero MotoCorp	2501.05	41.70
Hindalco	427.80	5.45
Hind Unilever	2499.75	1.80
ICICI Bank	904.75	19.10
IndusInd Bank	1102.00	-14.35
Infosys	1226.30	-1.05
ITC	408.70	0.45
JSW Steel	720.35	9.70
Kotak Bank	1897.25	3.60
L&T	2228.90	13.70
M&M	1207.75	-5.00
Maruti Suzuki	8466.15	-92.30
NestleIndia	20689.30	192.45
NTPC	170.95	1.25
ONGC	160.25	0.65
PowerGrid Corp	231.95	0.40
Reliance Ind	2358.00	9.00
SBI Life	1105.70	-0.85
State Bank	554.60	11.45
Sun Pharma	979.15	-10.30
TataConsumer Product	732.55	32.15
Tata Motors	475.20	4.00
Tata Steel	106.50	0.35
TCS	3174.80	13.95
Tech Mahindra	1006.10	7.35
Titan	2629.55	61.25
UltraTech Cement	7440.55	82.05
UPL	729.85	-4.85
Wipro	377.95	9.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 24

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.71	82.03
Euro	89.95	90.30
British Pound	101.58	101.98
Japanese Yen (100)	60.69	60.93
Chinese Yuan	11.85	11.90
Swiss Franc	91.84	92.21
Singapore Dollar	61.21	61.46
Canadian Dollar	60.33	60.57
Malaysian Ringitt	18.40	18.49
Australian Dollar	54.58	54.80

Source:Indian Bank

Russian oil cuts OPEC's share of Indian market to 22-year low

Reuters
NEW DELHI

OPEC's share of India's oil imports fell in 2022/23 to the lowest in at least 22 years, as intake of cheaper Russian oil surged, data from industry sources show, and the major producers' share could shrink further this year.

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), mainly from the Middle East and Africa, saw their share of India's oil market slide to 59% in the year to March 2023, from about 72% in 2021/22.

Russia overtook Iraq to emerge as top oil supplier.

TMB Q4 net grows 11.4% to ₹253.05 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB) reported fourth-quarter net profit grew 11.4% from the year-earlier period to ₹253.05 crore following improvement in performance.

Net Interest Income (NII) during the quarter grew 7.99% from the year-earlier period.

"When I look from the stakeholder's point of view, there has been improvement in all parameters they want," said S. Krishnan, MD & CEO, TMB.

FY23 net rises 25%

For the financial year ended March 31, the bank reported net profit of ₹1,029 crore, up 25.2% year-on-year. NII climbed 15.4% to ₹2,094 crore, deposits rose 6% to ₹47,766 crore and advances grew 11.4% to ₹37,582 crore. Net worth increased to ₹6,928 crore, an improvement of 29.8%.

Gross NPA as a percentage of the total advances stood at ₹1.39% and Net NPA at 0.62%. Provision coverage ratio rose to 90.90% (87.92%).

The board recommended a dividend of 100%, of which 50% had already been paid in March as interim dividend.

Consultants urge govt. to use domestic routing of forex deals

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Consultants have urged the government to stop routing domestic foreign currency deals via the U.S. banking system, in order to avoid transaction fees and save foreign currency.

Rather such domestic deals involving foreign currencies should be routed through the RBI. At present a transaction fee is levied on U.S. dollar transactions within the country.

"By routing the transactions through the American Banking system, the country is losing substantial money," K. K. Kapila of FIDIC said in a statement.

DICV sales grew 25%, revenue 37% in 2022

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) has reported a revenue growth of 37% and sales growth of 25% in calendar year 2022, from 2021, amid supply-chain headwinds and adverse cost environment.

The year 2022 was 'the best year of growth' as DICV sold 29,470 (domestic and export) units of trucks and buses, DICV said in a statement.

"Additionally, we crossed the production milestone of 2,00,000 vehicles (domestic and exports) and 2,00,000 transmissions at Oragadam manufacturing facility."

DICV exported 11,000 vehicles and sold more than 245 million parts.

"Our strong financial and sales performance is in spite of the pandemic heavily affecting the commercial vehicle sales in the last three years," said Satyakam Arya, MD & CEO.

"We achieved this by consistently improving our cost and revenue position."

Credit Suisse says lost $68 bn in assets in Q1

Reuters
ZURICH

Credit Suisse said on Monday that 61 billion Swiss francs ($68 billion) in assets left the bank in the first quarter and that outflows were continuing, underscoring the challenge faced by UBS Group AG in rescuing its rival.

It also said deposits declined by 67 billion francs and that there had been significant non-renewals of maturing time deposits.

Most of the outflows were from its wealth management division and occurred across all regions.

"These outflows have moderated but have not yet reversed as of April 24, 2023," Credit Suisse said.

Shares in both UBS and Credit Suisse were up slightly in early trade, with some analysts noting the outflows were not as bad as feared.

But others said the magnitude was alarming.

Credit Suisse's ability to generate revenue appeared to be so damaged that "the deal could well remain a drag on UBS operating results unless a deeper restructuring plan is announced," analyst Thomas Hallett at KBW wrote in a note to clients.

Assets managed by the flagship wealth management division dropped to 502.5 billion francs at the end of March, compared with 707 billion reported for the year-earlier period.

FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

THE HINDU GROUP

WHAT'S IN A WORD?

WORLD: ISRAEL
Political quagmire 56
TRIBUTE: VIVAN SUNDARAM
Rebel, writer, thinker, artist 79
FRONTLINE
GAMING? OR GAMBLING?
By lumping video games and real money games into one "online gaming" category, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is creating chaos in the virtual world

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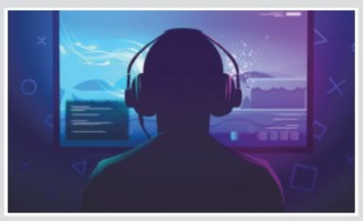

Despite recent changes, the IT Rules remain fuzzy, putting online gaming and gambling into one basket. Will MeitY bring clarity to the definitions? Or is this an escape route for real money gaming companies to avoid too close a scrutiny?

The war within.
As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ultra right-wing partners push for more extreme measures, Israel faces its toughest test yet: trying to reconcile its Jewish identity with its claims to democracy.

Vivan Sundaram.
Remembering one of India's iconic artists, whose persona and works radically changed the art landscape, with a tribute and a photo essay of his works.

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A BG-BGE

FAREWELL?

Dhoni thanks the crowd at Eden Gardens for the support

As the stands at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata turned into a sea of yellow during the CSK-KKR match on Sunday, M.S. Dhoni thanked the crowd. "I will just say thanks for the support, they came in big numbers. Most of these guys will come in a KKR jersey next time. They are trying to give me a farewell, so thanks a lot to the crowd."

ROPED IN

DC names ex-SRH player Priyam as injured Nagarkoti's replacement

Delhi Capitals has roped in batter Priyam Garg as replacement for the injured Kamlesh Nagarkoti for the remainder of the IPL. According to a release, fast bowler Nagarkoti has been ruled out after sustaining a lower back stress fracture. DC has signed Garg for his base price of ₹20 lakh.

TOO SLOW

Kohli and Royal Challengers players fined for poor over-rate

Royal Challengers Bangalore was on Monday fined after it maintained a slow over-rate in its IPL clash against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday. As it was the team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to over rate, skipper Virat Kohli was fined ₹24 lakh and each member of the XI ₹6 lakh.

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Tendulkar, Lara honoured with gates at the Sydney Cricket Ground

A set of gates at the Sydney Cricket Ground was on Monday named in honour of Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara to mark the Indian's 50th birthday and the 30th anniversary of the West Indian's 277 at the ground. Cricket Australia said that visiting players would pass through the gates on their way to the pitch.

Cool Mukesh's final over helps Capitals pip Sunrisers

Seamer concedes just five with 13 needed for a win; Axar's all-round show and his 69-run stand with Pandey proves crucial in the end; Washington's three wickets and cameo go in vain for SRH

IPL-16

V.S. Aravind
HYDERABAD

Delhi Capitals held its nerve to beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven runs in a thrilling IPL match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Monday.

Washington's cameo with the bat went in vain as Mukesh Kumar successfully defended 13 runs in the final over to help Capitals clinch their second win.

Dramatic over

In a dramatic last over, Sunrisers needed nine off two balls with Washington on strike. However, Mukesh cramped him for space and did the job for his side as Hyderabad suffered its fifth loss of the season.

Heinrich Klaasen and Washington revived the chase with a 41-run partnership after a middle-order collapse. However, the duo couldn't finish the game as Anrich Nortje removed Klaasen, the turning point of the game.

Earlier, SRH found itself in a familiar situation as the batting came a cropper yet again.

The opening pair of Mayank Agarwal and Harry Brook failed to make use of the PowerPlay as the latter departed early.

Axar and Kuldeep tied down the batters by bowling stump-to-stump and not providing any width. However, Mayank broke the shackles as he smashed Mitchell Marsh through extra-cover, the first boundary after 27 balls.

Just when Sunrisers were rebuilding, Mayank perished one short of his 50 as Axar broke the stand.

Earlier, Washington's spell of 4-0-28-3 helped the hosts restrict the visitors to 144 for nine. David Warner, Phil Salt and Sarfaraz Khan failed to get going as the Sunrisers bowlers kept up the pressure with some disciplined bowling.

From 57 for two, Captials slipped to 62 for five in one over as Washington shifted the momentum Sunrisers' way. Manish Pandey and Axar forged a vital 69-run stand off 59 balls and that proved crucial in the end.

DC and SRH will meet again on April 29 in New Delhi.

Making an impact: The Capitals players converge on Mukesh after his brilliant final over. NAGARA GOPAL

Axar... star of the night.

Points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Chennai Super Kings	7	5	2	10	0.662
Rajasthan Royals	7	4	3	8	0.844
Lucknow Super Giants	7	4	3	8	0.547
Gujarat Titans	6	4	2	8	0.212
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	4	3	8	-0.008
Punjab Kings	7	4	3	8	-0.162
Mumbai Indians	6	3	3	6	-0.254
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	2	5	4	-0.186
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	2	5	4	-0.725
Delhi Capitals	7	2	5	4	-0.961

* After the SRH-DC match on April 24

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

David Warner c Brook b Washington 21 *(20b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Phil Salt c Klaasen b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(1b)*, Mitchell Marsh lbw b Natarajan 25 *(15b, 5x4)*, Sarfaraz Khan c Bhuvneshwar b Washington 10 *(9b, 1x6)*, Manish Pandey run out 34 *(27b, 2x4)*, Aman Khan c Abhishek b Washington 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel b Bhuvneshwar 34 *(34b, 4x4)*, Ripal Patel run out 5 *(6b)*, Anrich Nortje run out 2 *(2b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Ishant Sharma (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-2): 4; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 144.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Salt, 0.3 overs), 2-39 (Marsh, 4.4), 3-57 (Warner, 7.2), 4-58 (Sarfaraz, 7.4), 5-62 (Aman, 7.6), 6-131 (Axar, 17.5), 7-134 (Pandey, 18.2), 8-139 (Nortje, 19.2), 9-139 (Ripal, 19.4).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-11-2, Jansen 2-0-27-0, Washington 4-0-28-3, Natarajan 3-0-21-1, Markande 4-0-34-0, Umran 2-0-14-0, Markram 1-0-7-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Harry Brook b Nortje 7 *(14b)*, Mayank Agarwal c Aman b Axar 49 *(39b, 7x4)*, Rahul Tripathi **(Impact Player in place of Natarajan)** c Salt b Ishant 15 *(21b)*, Abhishek Sharma c & b Kuldeep 5 *(5b)*, Aiden Markram b Axar 3 *(5b)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Aman b Nortje 31 *(19b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Washington Sundar (not out) 24 *(15b, 3x4)*, Marco Jansen (not out) 2 *(3b)*; Extras (nb-1): 1; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 137.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-31 (Brook, 5.1), 2-69 (Mayank, 11.3), 3-75 (Tripathi, 12.3), 4-79 (Abhishek, 13.3), 5-85 (Markram, 14.1), 6-126 (Klaasen, 18.3).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Ishant 3-0-18-1, Nortje 4-0-33-2, Mukesh **(Impact Player in place of Sarfaraz)** 3-0-27-0, Axar 4-0-21-2, Kuldeep 4-0-22-1, Marsh 2-0-16-0.

Toss: DC; **PoM:** Axar.

Capitals won by seven runs.

Race for the caps

ORANGE CAP

	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
du Plessis (RCB)	7	405	84	165.30	0/5
Conway (CSK)	7	314	83	143.37	0/4
Warner (DC)	7	306	65	119.53	0/4
Kohli (RCB)	7	279	82*	141.62	0/4
Ruturaj (CSK)	7	270	92	147.54	0/2

PURPLE CAP

	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W/5W
Siraj (RCB)	7	13	4/21	7.14	1/0
Arshdeep (PBKS)	7	13	4/29	8.16	1/0
Chahal (RR)	7	12	4/17	8.07	1/0
Rashid Khan (GT)	6	12	3/31	8.29	0/0
Deshpande (CSK)	7	12	3/45	10.97	0/0

* After the SRH-DC match on April 24

Rohit will mull over bowling frailties as MI takes on Titans

Lalith Kalidas
AHMEDABAD

Two points separate title-holder Gujarat Titans and five-time champion Mumbai Indians ahead of match 35 of IPL-16 at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Tuesday.

As the league stage nudges towards the half-way mark, both teams have managed to secure early wins. However, certain shortcomings have stopped them from rendering their best versions.

While Titans pulled off a fourth win with a death-bowling masterclass by Mohammed Shami and Mohit Shama against Lucknow Super Giants on Saturday, Mumbai was handed its third defeat after a shoddy bowling effort at the death versus Punjab Kings the same day.

The Hardik Pandya-led side has a task on its hand as it returns to the venue of its 2022 triumph and season-opening win against Chennai Super Kings.

The fourth-placed Titans allowed two successive heists and dropped points. Rinku Singh's epochal five sixes and Rajasthan Royals' counter-attack saw Titans fail in their usually successful methods. With the pitch in Ahmedabad assisting hit-the-deck seamers, Titans have often pinned the bowling attack around a lone spinner in Rashid Khan, who has blown hot and cold in six outings.

The solid Mumbai Indians batting line-up could aim to disrupt Rashid and unsettle the Titans in the middle overs, where it has conceded 100-plus runs in both home defeats.

Rashid can still bank on his mental edge over Mumbai skipper Rohit Sharma, having dismissed him thrice in five innings.

The wily Afghan could also trouble Tilak Varma, whose strike-rate dips sharply against the leg-spinners.

MI's bowling frailties will be playing on Rohit's mind as he attempts to trump Hardik, his potential limited-overs India captaincy successor, for the second time in as many meetings.

Showing the way: MI will bank on its strong batting line-up, led by skipper Rohit, to rattle the Titans. VIJAY SONEJI

Today's match

GT vs. MI

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 1

GT 0 | MI 1

ONLY MEETING

MI won by **five runs**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

CSK gave the chance to express myself, says Rahane

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Having impressed all with his 29-ball unbeaten 71 and contributing significantly to Chennai Super Kings' 49-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Eden Gardens here, Ajinkya Rahane feels the opportunities he got in the yellow jersey have helped him flourish in the shortest format.

"I was happy when CSK picked me. They gave me opportunities to play and express myself. You get a chance to learn many things when you play under M.S. Dhoni).

"The way the format is evolving, I feel as an individual you have to keep growing and developing your skills. My preparation has always been good. I always tried to improve myself, develop one or two new shots. Now I'm able to show my shots."

The former India captain said he trusted his style of play.

"For me, it's all about timing the ball, playing proper cricketing shots, without thinking about someone else.

"For me, it's about 'being Ajinkya Rahane' and backing my game in the middle."

Rahane 2.0 has taken everyone by surprise

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings is at the top with five wins from seven matches at the halfway stage of IPL 2023. While this may not be surprising for one of the most consistent sides in the competition, not many would have thought Ajinkya Rahane would play a significant role in it.

As the white-ball game has become more power-oriented, players like Rahane, who relied on timing and placement with classical groundstrokes, seemed to have been left behind. The 34-year-old, who last played a T20I in 2016 and an ODI in 2018, was seen as a player not ideally suited for the shortest format.

Last year, Rahane also lost his place in the Test squad, and his career was at a crossroads.

Vital role

Appearing in five matches for Super Kings this season, he has played a vital role in two away wins (Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders), apart from valuable cameos in two others.

His transformation has astonished one and all as they have been shocked to see a version of the batter they didn't know existed.

Rahane, as quality batters do, has not reinvented in terms of his technique or strokeplay but just reoriented his approach. Sure, there was the scoop off Umesh Yadav and a reverse scoop off Kulwant Khejroliya over fine-leg and short third-man, showing he has worked on his game and widened his range.

But quite remarkably, he has stuck to his core strength – timing.

However, the one thing that has changed in his game is his intent. While still looking to put away the bad deliveries, Rahane has not tried to keep them on the ground and backed himself to clear the ropes.

It was evident in the sixes he hit in his first match against Mumbai Indians when he went after left-arm pacers Jason Behrendorff and Arshad Khan with flicks and pulls. And the numbers, too, bear witness to this. While he has hit 18 fours, he has also smashed 11 sixes en route to the highest strike rate (199.04) among batters who have at least 100 runs.

Rahane's resurgence also shows how role clarity from a team management can get the best out of players. CSK's deep batting line-up allows the top-order to be aggressive, a strategy it the four-time champion has adopted since 2021.

"The turning point is I am getting a chance to play. I was not getting opportunities to play one or two years ago. If you don't play, how would you show what shots you have in your armoury," said Rahane.

Uncorking his range: Rahane has backed himself to clear the ropes. K.R. DEEPAK

Rahane's IPL 2023 journey

Runs	Balls & Boundaries	Opponent	Venue
61	27b (7x4, 3x6)	MI	Mumbai
31	19b (2x4, 1x6)	RR	Chennai
37	20b (3x4, 2x6)	RCB	Bengaluru
9	10b	SRH	Chennai
71*	29b (6x4, 5x6)	KKR	Kolkata

INBRIEF

Balbirnie, Tucker help Ireland pile it on against Sri Lanka

A career-best 95 by Andy Balbirnie helped Ireland reach a strong 319 for four at stumps on day one of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Monday. In a strong comeback after a heavy innings defeat in the first Test, Ireland's Lorcan Tucker was unbeaten on 78 and Curtis Campher was batting on 27 at the close of play. Having made three changes, Ireland began nervously as Peter Moor departed for five and Sri Lanka's first- Test hero Prabath Jayasuriya removed James McCollum for 10. But captain Balbirnie held firm in hot and humid conditions, grinding out a 115-run partnership with the returning Paul Stirling after Harry Tector fell to Jayasuriya for 18. It was the highest partnership for Ireland in its brief Test history.

The scores: Ireland 1st innings 319/4 in 90 overs (Andy Balbirnie 95, Paul Stirling 74 retd. hurt., Lorcan Tucker 78 batting) vs Sri Lanka. **Toss:** Ireland.

Nepomniachtchi and Ding play out another draw

The 11th game of the World chess championship between Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren ended in a draw at Astana on Monday. It was the fourth draw in a row, making the score 6-5 in favour of Nepomniachtchi. It was a quick 39-move draw lasting just an hour and 40 minutes. With just three games remaining, the pressure on Ding has increased, as Nepomniachtchi needs only 1.5 points to become the champion.

Pakistan, China confirmed for Asian Champions Trophy

In a major development, Pakistan and China have confirmed their participation in the seventh Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament to be held at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai from August 3 to 12. Confirming the news, J. Sekar Manoharan, president, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN) and treasurer of Hockey India (HI) told *The Hindu* here on Monday; "Since there were doubts expressed by the media on the two teams (China and Pakistan) participation, we are happy to inform you that they have sent their confirmation."

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Ireland: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.

FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 10 a.m.

World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards

Super Cup football: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 7 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Napoli edges closer to Serie A title after last-gasp win over Juventus

The Naples-based team can seal the deal next weekend if it wins and second-placed Lazio doesn't; Leao on the double as Milan coasts past lowly Lecce; Torres helps Barcelona out of its recent slump with strike against Atletico

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Big result: Raspadori scores Napoli's winner against Juventus in injury time. GETTY IMAGES

Giacomo Raspadori fired Napoli to the brink of its first Serie A title in over three decades on Sunday with his stoppage-time winner in a dramatic 1-0 triumph at Juventus.

Italy international Raspadori lashed home a brilliant volley from Eljif Elmas's cross in the 92nd minute of a pulsating encounter in Turin to push Napoli 17 points ahead of second-placed Lazio, who lost at home to Torino on Saturday.

Raspadori's late winner means that Napoli can win Serie A for the first time since 1990 next weekend if it beats Salernitana and Lazio fails to win at Inter Milan.

Juve stays third, where it rose to on Thursday following the decision to revoke its 15-point penalty for illicit transfer activity.

However it awaits a new ruling from the Italian Football Federation's (FIGC) appeals court to see if it will be handed a new points penalty, a decision which will have a big impact in Serie A's race for the Champions League.

Massimiliano Allegri's side thought it had snatched the points for itself when substitute Angel Di Maria netted a brilliant solo effort with eight minutes remaining, only for referee Michael Fabbri to then rule it out for a foul on Stanislav Lobotka which Juve was convinced was a good tackle.

By that point Victor Osimhen should have already put Napoli ahead through one of the three golden chances he missed midway through the second half.

First he clipped the outside of the post in the 70th minute following great work from Eljif Elmas and then headed a great opportunity straight at Wojciech Szczesny from the subsequent corner. Three minutes later Osimhen was brilliantly fed by Giovanni di Lorenzo but could only smash his close-range finish over the bar.

Rafael Leao hit a brace as AC Milan giant earned a straight-forward win over Lecce days after setting up a derby Champions League semifinal against Inter.

Leao scored his first home goals since November in fifth-placed Milan's 2-0 success over lowly Lecce.

Stefano Pioli's side is outside the Champions League positions on goal difference behind Roma.

Ferran Torres's strike helped Barcelona emerge from a recent slump to earn a 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid on Sunday in LaLiga, taking a big step towards clinching its first title since 2019.

Torres's low first-half finish restored its advantage over second-placed Real Madrid to 11 points with eight games remaining. Atletico, third, arrived as Spain's most in-form side but Torres stroked home from the edge of the box in the 44th minute to secure victory for Xavi Hernandez's side.

The results: Serie A: Juventus 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Raspadori 90+2); AC Milan 2 (Leao 40, 75) bt Lecce 0.

LaLiga: Barcelona 1 (Torres 44) bt Atletico Madrid 0; Real Mallorca 3 (Lee 56, 90+5, Raillo 64) bt Getafe 1 (Mayoral 23); Sevilla 2 (Mir 34, En-Nesyri 90+4) bt Villarreal 1 (Torres 57).

Maini bags maiden podium at Monza

Press Trust of India
MONZA

Indian driver Arjun Maini and his team Haupt Racing got their first podium in the bronze category of the GT World Challenge Europe here.

Bronze category stipulates that there is a requirement of one driver in the bronze, silver and gold category. Arjun was the gold rate driver for Mercedes AMG.

The team got off to an excellent start with Hubert Haupt making some places despite multiple yellow flags and safety cars. Sebastian Baud then maintained the momentum going till the end of his stint which was just past the 2-hour mark out of the 3-hour endurance race. Arjun got in for the final hour and came out of the pits in P3 in the bronze class.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Starring roles for Sanjit and Keshua

Sanjit Sathish (139) and T. Keshua (92) helped Magadi Cricket Academy defeat Six Cricket Academy in the Tiger Cup Under-12 cricket tournament here.

The scores: Magadi CA 274/3 in 30 overs (Sanjit Sathish 139, T. Keshua 92) bt Six CA 207/8 in 30 overs (Shaurya Gowda 32, Aerit 32, V. Naidu 31, Ved 39, Akarsh 3/36).

Union Gymkhana 188/7 in 30 overs (Farhan Shekh 86, Reyes Raj 62) bt Panthers CA 122 in 26.5 overs (Harsh Shyam 27, M. Surya 26).

RVCE gets the better of BMSCE

RVCE took out BMSCE in the Ramaiah IT Diamond Jubilee and Centenary Celebration of Dr. M.S. Ramaiah all India inter-engineering college cricket tournament here.

The scores: RVCE 175/8 in 28 overs (Adarsh Rangappa 43, R. Neerj 35, S. Tejas 28, Gagan 3/30) bt BMSCE 130/9 in 28 overs (J. Thejas 35, Rochan 26, V. Abhiram 4/26).

MSRIT 217/7 in 28 overs (Akshan Rao 40, Nitesh 37, N. Yash 27, Ishfaq 3/49) bt GAT 103 in 24 overs (Karthik 29).

Ajeesh scripts East India's win with hat-trick

Ajeesh's hat-trick powered East India HC past BCYA 'B' in the 92nd Travancore Cup hockey tournament.

The results: Ideal Sports Academy 'B' 2 (Mari 25, Hari 10) bt Blue Star HC 0.

East India HC 6 (Yala 9, 49, Pemmaiah 24, Ajeesh 32, 33, 44) bt BCYA 'B' 0.

Bopanna has a lot to look forward in season ahead

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

It has been a fruitfully hectic season for Rohan Bopanna, as he finds a new dimension to professional tennis, consistently competing in the big league.

With two titles so far in the season, one as the oldest player to win the Masters series title, the 13th-ranked Bopanna has a lot to look forward to, in the season ahead.

The Davis Cup World Group play-off tie against Denmark may not have been memorable from the doubles perspective, as Bopanna and Yuki Bhambri were unable to put up a fight against Holger Rune and Johannes Ingildsen.

Yet, Bopanna does not shirk away from national duty in the pretext of focusing on his rewarding professional career.

Even as Bopanna deals with the challenges of clay court tennis in Europe, in partnership with Matthew Ebden of Australia, he looks ahead, quite thoughtful in keeping the interest of the Indian team at heart.

"The hard court season is going to be hectic. After the US Open, we have the Davis Cup, the Asian Games and the Shanghai Masters," said Bopanna.

Bopanna is pleased that India would be hosting the World Group-2 tie against Morocco in September. "Hope we get to host the Davis Cup in Bengaluru, or perhaps in Coorg," said Bopanna.

The Davis Cup may not be that challenging, but the Asian Games could be lively.

For the moment, it is Madrid Masters followed by Rome Masters before the Grand Slam in Roland Garros for Bopanna.

It's Kerala vs Railways in the women's volleyball final

Sports Bureau

Kerala defeated West Bengal 25-18, 25-21, 25-17 on Monday to set up a clash with champion Indian Railways in the women's final of the 36th Federation Cup volleyball championships to be held in Karaikal on Wednesday. In the previous edition in Bhilwara (Rajasthan), Railways had defeated Kerala in the final.

The results: Men: A: Jharkhand bt Karnataka 25-21, 25-17, 18-25, 25-15; **B:** Railways bt Puducherry 25-17, 25-19, 25-15.
Women (round-robin league): Kerala bt West Bengal 25-18, 25-21, 25-17.

Odisha govt. extends hockey sponsorship

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Odisha government has been the official sponsor of the men's and women's hockey teams, both senior and junior, since 2018, through the Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. On Monday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the extension - till January 31, 2033 - that will see the government release ₹434.12 crore (excluding applicable taxes) to Hockey India.

Veteran TT star Barhat passes away

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Arun Singh Barhat, a bronze medal winner at the World Veterans table tennis championships in January this year at Muscat, passed away due to a cardiac arrest after reaching Jalandhar for the 29th Masters' National table tennis championships on Sunday. He was 77.

The Table Tennis Federation of India president Meghna Ahlawat, secretary general Kamlesh Mehta, and treasurer P. Nagender Reddy expressed their condolences.

Protesting wrestlers decide to move the SC seeking action against former WFI chief

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Making a plea: Vinesh, Bajrang and Sakshi addressing the media during their protest on Monday. R.V. MOORTHY

The protesting wrestlers seeking action against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh have decided to go to the Supreme Court, insisting they won't give up unless an official FIR is registered even as the Sports Ministry on Monday sought the formation of an ad-hoc committee as an interim measure.

The wrestlers including Olympic champions Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia and Asian champion Vinesh Phogat have accused the former WFI chief of sexual harassment.

This is the second time they have sat on protest after doing so in January this year, when the Ministry formed an Oversight Committee to look into the allegations.

On Monday, the Ministry wrote to the IOA suggesting postponement of the upcoming elections (scheduled for May 7) and constitution of an Ad-Hoc committee as an interim arrangement "...to conduct the election to the Executive Committee of the WFI within 45 days of its formation and to manage the affairs of the WFI, including selection of athletes and making of entries for participation in international events...".

"We will not believe these false promises. Earlier also they made a committee but those close to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh were only running the federation. No FIR has been registered for three days, we want the court to look into that also and proper investigation to be done into our complaints," Vinesh said. Their petition is expected to come up for consideration on Tuesday.

The Ministry's 'suggestion' to the IOA also mentioned the major findings of the Oversight Committee: Absence of an Internal Complaints Committee and lack of adequate mechanism for awareness building and grievance redressal; need for more transparency and consultation between federation and sportspersons; need for effective communication between the stakeholders; there was no mention of the specific charges against Singh.

'Biased'

"The committee was biased from the start. If the committee has not found anything then let them register an FIR against us but let everything be made public," Sakshi said, adding, "he is getting an advantage because he is an M.P. from BJP. He has the power of money but we have the power of truth."

The wrestlers, however, admitted that the support this time from their fraternity was muted

SAI Deputy Director General Shiv Sharma met the wrestlers for more than an hour late at night. "I have talked to them and will convey their views to the ministry. I hope things will be sorted out soon. I will come again tomorrow to talk and find a way out," Sharma said before being interrupted by Vinesh seeking FIR registration as the primary concern.

Interestingly, the ministry has 'requested' the IOA and refrained from directly instructing the WFI on elections which could have been construed as government interference in the administration of a recognised federation

A fascinating final beckons as Odisha takes on Bengaluru

SUPER CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

The top prize: Grayson, Chhetri, Rodriguez and Miranda pose with the cup on the eve of the final. K. RAGESH

During the press conference ahead of the Super Cup final, Clifford Miranda explained why an Indian coach, like him, was an oddity in the ISL. The Odisha FC coach conceded the Indian coaches had some way to go yet.

Miranda added it was also difficult to convince the franchise-owners even if the coaches were good and that they would have to work twice or three times more than their foreign counterparts. Over the last couple of weeks, he has shown, however, an Indian coach could take a team all the way to the final of a major tournament like the Super Cup.

Talking about Tuesday's final against Bengaluru FC, he said his team wasn't thinking of it as its first-ever final. "For us, it's another game where we have to do the right things against a very good opponent," he said.

That opponent, Bengaluru, has had an excellent season. It won the Durand Cup and, more recently, contested the ISL final, in which it lost to ATK Mohun Bagan in a shootout.

The Bengaluru coach, Simon Grayson, is keen to put that behind and to win the Super Cup final.

"We mentioned after the game that we had another competition left to play and we will try to win that," he said.

It should be a fascinating final between two sides that have played some excellent football in this tournament during the last fortnight or so.

Both have some top class players in form, such as Sunil Chhetri, Javi Hernandez and Roy Krishna (Bengaluru), Diego Mauricio, Nandhakumar, Victor Rodriguez and Jerry Mawihmingthanga (Odisha).